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Issue No 146
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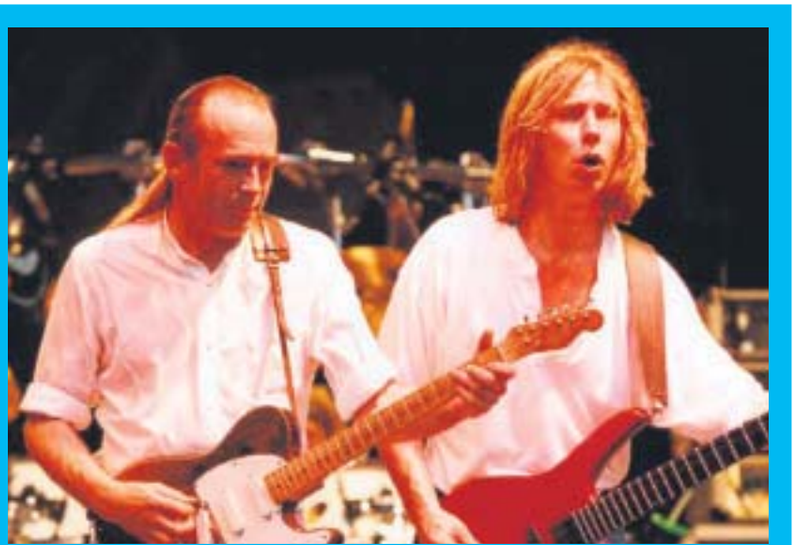


SINISTER: Gas masks of the First World War make a grotesque display. Search 'gas masks'

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QUO ROCK THE CASTLE

Rock legends Status Quo will kick off the four-night Castle Concerts in Rochester tonight.

The Quo, led by frontmen Francis Rossi and Rick Parfitt, will perform all their timeless hits in front of a sell-out capacity crowd.

Former Pop Idol winner Will Young will make his first Rochester Castle appearance tomorrow night followed by all-girl group The Saturdays on Friday. The support act is X Factor winners Diversity.

The Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra will round off with the Castle Proms on Saturday 17.

BY **SIMON ROBINSON**

SOZZLED MP Mark Reckless has vowed to go on the wagon while in Westminster after getting too drunk to vote in Parliament last week.



DRUNK: Reckless

The newly elected Rochester and Strood representative said from now on he would avoid all alcohol while serving his constituents.

His vow comes after he was too intoxicated to vote in a crucial early-morning budget proposal last Wednesday after having so much to drink in the subsidised Westminster bar that he fell over.

The former barrister, who was called to the Bar in 2007, said he was sorry for taking part in the six-hour drinking session on Wednesday, July 7.

He said: "I made a mistake. I'm really sorry about it.

"I remember someone asking me to vote and not thinking it was appropriate, given how I was at the time.

"If I was in the sort of situation generally where I thought I was drunk, I'd tend to go home.

"Westminster is a very special situation and all I can say is, given this very embarrassing experience, I don't intend to drink at Westminster again."

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SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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RAMADA DOVER

Drugs importer facing an extra 14 years in jail

A JAILED gang leader has been slapped with a further 14-year prison sentence for his part in a country-wide drugs network.

Darren Quick, 44, from Rochester, was one of eight men sentenced to a total of 79 years and eight months in prison late last week, having earlier pleaded guilty to conspiracy to provide class A drugs.

He was the head of a Kent gang that supplied cocaine to another group in the Swansea Valley area of South Wales, using a third gang in Bournemouth as a go-between.

Quick, who imported the drugs, is already serving a seven-and-a-half year sentence for possessing criminal property, transferring criminal money and money laundering.

Two other members of the Kent gang – Stephen Jarrett, 25, from Maidstone; and Norrie Hyde, 40, from Sittingbourne – are also serving two years each for drugs-related activities.

Matthew Horne, of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (Soca), said: "This investigation has taken apart a complex criminal operation which was bringing considerable harm to communities across the UK, and was led by individuals with the ability to export drugs and launder money around the world."

At its height the network is believed to have trafficked about half a tonne of cocaine, distributing up to 8kg every 10 days.

The investigation began in September 2007, when Soca officers identified links between the supply of drugs in South Wales and individuals on the south coast.

They used covert surveillance to identify the key members of the network, and so far 28 people have been charged. Of these, 26 have been convicted or pleaded guilty. Two are still awaiting trial.



PLEADED GUILTY: Darren Quick

Det Sgt Rob Haines, of Kent Police's serious and organised crime unit, said: "Kent Police has worked with other law enforcement agencies to investigate an extensive money-laundering network.

"Officers conducted detailed inquiries and uncovered large sums of money being moved between locations.

"Kent Police's serious and organised crime unit will seek and pursue those involved in the supply and distribution of controlled drugs, and those who launder their money."

Quick was first arrested along with Jarrett and Hyde back in December 2008 when officers saw them acting suspiciously in a pub car park in Maidstone. Inside Quick's Ford Mondeo was a bag containing £66,690 and a blue box containing £126,070.

Cops lock themselves inside security van

TWO police officers became trapped in a security van for 10 minutes trying to rescue the stricken driver.

The PCs managed to lock themselves inside the heavily-protected vehicle at Twydall Green on Thursday, July 8 after the panic alarm went off.

The vehicle, which was thought to be delivering money, was broadcasting the message: "This van is under attack. Call the police."

Two officers arrived on scene but were left perplexed over how to rescue the driver inside.

It was suggested that one of them could climb in through a roof hatch, but once in the van, the officer was unable to escape.

The second officer entered the van through the front, but a few seconds later she was trapped when the door shut behind her.

One shopper said: "It was hilarious, like a scene out of the Keystone Cops. About 20 people were stood round laughing with two officers and a driver stuck in the van."

Six officers and the security firm eventually passed on the code to the driver to reset the alarm and the PCs were released.

Chance to influence future of transport

RESIDENTS are being given the opportunity to shape the future of transport in Medway.

A series of public consultations are being held over the next 12 weeks to allow people to voice their thoughts and opinions on the new Local Transport Plan (LTP).

The LTP will form the basis of the area's transport structure for the next 15 years, from 2011 to 2026. It outlines priorities for an effective transport system that will underpin and support the area's regeneration.

A series of exhibitions will be held in libraries and shopping centres until September.

There will be a chance to leave comments about public transport, cycle routes, footpaths and what can be done to improve congestion.

Medway Council's front line services boss Phil Filmer said: "Transport is an issue that affects everything we do, so it is vital that everyone has the chance to have their input, at a time when transport projects must offer good value for money."

MP backs anonymity in sex cases

GILLINGHAM and Rainham MP Rehman Chishti has controversially backed plans granting anonymity to defendants accused of sexual offences.

His comments follow the announcement by Justice Minister Crispin Blunt, confirming the government's plans to bring forward legislation as soon as possible.

Speaking in his first speech in the House of Commons, Mr Chishti said: "We must take care when addressing and balancing the interests of the victim against the rights of a defendant who is alleged to have committed the offence.

"Recent experience has demonstrated that there are occasions when defendants have been falsely accused of sexual crimes. Extreme suffering is caused to victims as well as to those accused in these cases.

"The effect on those wrongly accused of serious sexual offences by the publication of their names and the revelation of their identities can have long-term and far-reaching disastrous, unintended consequences."



Mr Chishti (pictured), a barrister, went on to say: "I believe we still have a system of government in this country, of which we are justly proud, in which people are innocent until proven guilty. If safeguards are required to reinforce that in sexual cases, they should be put in place as a matter of urgency.

"A restriction until charge does not go far enough, as the test for charging is a reasonable prospect of conviction and far lower than the standard required for conviction by a jury."

Mr Chishti's views are not shared by many female MPs, and even appear to have divided opinion amongst members of his own party.

Louise Bagshawe, Conservative MP for Corby, said: "By singling out rape in this way, ministers are sending a negative signal about women and those who accuse men of rape."

The Government will now hold informal talks with the police, rape charities and the media and a further announcement is expected to be made in September.

This time spy car's breaking all the rules



CROSSING THE LINE: Photographer Alan Bourne's picture shows the Smart Car parked dangerously at the bottom of Castle Hill, Rochester, and below, Geoff Barden's picture of the council's spy car in Thames Avenue, Rainham

EXCLUSIVE

BY **SIMON ROBINSON**

THE council's all-seeing spy car has once again been snapped parked on double yellow lines.

The CCTV Smart car, used to film illegally parked cars across the towns, was spotted parked at the bottom of Castle Hill, off the Esplanade, earlier this year.

Professional photographer Alan Bourne, who took this photo, said the driver broke the council's own CCTV car regulation order and driver guidelines – both listed right.

Quoting Medway Council's Traffic Regulation Order 2003 section 7 (c) Mr Bourne said: "I would say it is most definitely not 'reasonably necessary' to stop where they are stopped. The car is not only parked on a double yellow line, but is jutting out into the road, rather than parked parallel to the kerb.

"Anyone driving down Castle Hill from the right and having to overtake the spy car might well meet head-on another car turning into Castle Hill from the Esplanade.

"There are ample safe and legal parking spots on the opposite side of the Esplanade, or even, according to their rules, on the double yellow lines to their left on the cobbled area.

"They are therefore parked illegally."

A Medway Council spokesman said the driver had been dismissed over the incident.

He said: "We expect all of our Smart Car drivers, like the rest of our employees, to operate within the law and within the very stringent regulations we set.

"Our Smart Car is allowed to park on double yellow lines to photograph illegally-parked drivers, as long as there is no alternative place to do so and it is safe.

"This driver has not complied with this and has been dismissed from their post.

"We are, of course, aware that our Smart Car drivers and operators are under constant scrutiny and we expect them to act with the highest level of professionalism at all times.

"We would like to thank the member of the public that brought this to our attention."

The CCTV Smart Car has been pictured on yellow lines across Medway in recent weeks. Last week commuter Geoff Barden sent this paper pictures of the camera car parked in Thames Avenue, Rainham, near the junction with Orchard Street.



Mr Barden said the vehicle was not parked safely, as it was forcing other road users to brake sharply as they rounded the corner.

"They were just five yards into the road from Orchard Street, forcing cars to break sharply as they turned into the road," he said.

The CCTV Car was also snapped parked on double yellow lines on the A2 in Rainham.

Email your pictures of the council's Spy Cars parked on yellow lines to Yourmedway@kosmedia.co.uk.

The Smart Car Rules

Medway Council Traffic Regulation Order 2003 section 7 (c):

"Vehicles when used in the service of a local authority in pursuance of statutory powers or duties provided that in all the circumstances it is reasonably necessary in the exercise of such powers in the performance of such duties for the vehicle to wait in the place in which it is waiting."

Mobile CCTV vehicle driver procedures:

"The Driver / CCTV Operator will drive to enforcement locations and park the mobile CCTV vehicle in a safe and legal manner, where possible. If it is not possible to park legally, the vehicle should be parked at the nearest location to the contravening vehicle(s) being monitored, but in a safe manner and so not to cause any obstruction to traffic flow. If it is not possible to park safely, enforcement action should not take place at that location and the mobile CCTV vehicle should be directed to the next enforceable location."

MP denies £150 cab ride

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Mr Reckless, who launched a campaign to 'Save the Great British Pub', denies accusations made in national papers that he fell asleep in the House of Commons and that he took a £150 cab ride home to Medway.

The MP, who also serves as a member of the Kent Police Authority, has been spoken to by KPA Chair Ann Barnes.

She said: "I have seen the media coverage relating to Mark Reckless' behaviour in Parliament, and I have spoken to him.

"I have noted the very public apologies that have been both published and broadcast.

"The conduct of KPA members is governed by a heavily-regulated code and framework overseen by an independent Standards Committee."

Mr Reckless was one of dozens of MPs who took advantage of the subsidised Westminster bars during a six-hour drinking session that went on into the early hours of Wednesday morning.

In the first late-night debate and vote of the Parliament, a number of MPs used the discounted bar while waiting for the vote at 2.30am.

The Commons bar reportedly took more than £5,000 during the evening.

£1 million con lands fraudsters in prison

TWO con artists who tricked a number of pensioners out of more than £1 million to fuel their drug and gambling habits have been jailed.

Moses Mead, 25, of Northfleet, and Christopher James Latty, 38, of Victoria Street, Gillingham, fleeced their victims over a number of years by charging them huge sums for unnecessary building work.

Ringleader Mead was sentenced to four years in prison, while Latty was given three years for working for the fraudster.

During the trial, Judge Joy, who sentenced the pair, said: "These were substantial, serious and significant offences of fraud. These took place over a significant period of time and have had a significant impact on your victims' lives."

John Hobbs was the biggest victim of the bogus builders, handing over more than £520,000 during a two-year period.

Following the hearing, the 62-year-old from Bexleyheath said: "The sentence looks a little bit light.

"I would have liked to have seen a longer sentence, but that is down to the judge as he has all the facts. I want to warn everyone to be extra careful and to check things out."



JAILED: Moses Mead and Christopher Latty

An 82-year-old Medway man was tricked into paying them £230,000, while a 73-year-old London woman handed over £20,000 for roofwork that was never carried out.

During the sentencing, it was revealed that Latty was being paid £100 per day to work under Mead in the scams to feed his long-standing heroin habit.

Mead had wasted the majority of the money on his gambling habit.

Between 2007 and 2010 they scammed wealthy residents across Kent, London, Hertfordshire and Cambridge.

They were arrested in January and pleaded guilty to 11 counts of fraud at Maidstone Crown Court last month.

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The Screen On The Green

Jailed sex fiend wanted to 'buy' a pre-teen girl

BY SIMON ROBINSON

A PREDATORY paedophile has been jailed for a minimum of 27 months after being caught making arrangements to "buy" a pre-teenage girl for sex.

David Glancey, of Maidstone Road, Rochester, organised the sick meeting in March, this year.

The 29-year-old convicted sex offender even provided an image of what he wanted the 10-12 year-old girl to look like and went on to give details of the perverse sexual acts he wanted to commit against her.

Glancey was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court after pleading guilty to one charge of arranging the commission of a child sex offence and nine counts of distributing indecent images of children.

Judge David Griffith-Jones handed him an indeterminate sentence and said he must serve a minimum of 27 months behind bars before being considered for parole.

Upon sentencing, Judge Griffith-Jones said Glancey's actions were "deliberate, planned and predatory".

The court heard how Glancey was first arrested in January after officers receive a tip-off in relation to possible child sex offences.

The paedophile was released on bail with the condition he must not access the internet or possess any computer of mobile phone capable of accessing the internet.

However, he continued to go online to search for depraved child sex images. He then went on to arrange to buy a young girl for sex.



SICK: Rochester paedophile David Glancey

Officers arrested him for a second time on March 10. They found a total of 279 images ranging from level one to five, eight of which were the most severe.

Detective Sergeant David Shipley said: "Glancey has a history of offending against children. I am glad that this will now be stopped through the sentence the court has imposed."

Detective Constable Mikaela Stevens added: "Glancey tried his best to avoid the consequences of his actions.

"These offences together with his previous criminal history, demonstrate that Glancey poses a significant and ongoing risk to children. I am glad the judge has acknowledged this in the sentence."

Glancey had previously been required to sign the sex offenders' register for four years after a conviction in Lincolnshire.

However, at the time of committing the most recent offences he was not subject to any court orders.

Coalition cancels rebuilding work on academies

THE planned rebuild of Medway's three academies has been placed under review by the Con-Lib coalition Government.

Millions had been earmarked to finance construction works at the Strood, Bishop of Rochester and Brompton academies under Labour's Building Schools for the Future programme (BSF).

But education secretary Michael Gove scrapped BSF last week, saying he was making tough, immediate decisions to help get the best value for money. Mr Gove said funding for academies such as those in Medway would be reviewed.

He said: "Where projects are some way from opening or academy sponsors can use existing buildings to continue their work of educational transformation, any future capital commitments will have to wait until the conclusion of our review."

Medway's first academy, Strood Academy, opened in September, 2009, after the closure of Chapter and Temple schools.

The Bishop of Rochester Academy and the Brompton Academy will both open in September after the closure of Medway Community College, Chatham South School and New Brompton College.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Drug suppliers admit guilt

NINE dealers have pleaded guilty to supplying crack cocaine and heroin in Strood.

The five men, three women and a 16-year-old schoolboy all admitted their roles in the operation at Maidstone Crown Court.

Six Strood defendants were remanded in custody. They are: Michael Spreadbury, 20 of Cedar Road; Ashley Morris, 21, Humber Crescent; Billy Jo Barnes, 28, Cedar Road; Lee Swift, 32, Hancock Close; Lisa Harper, 35, Hancock Close; and Denise Smith, 56, London Road. Christopher Hawkins, 64, of Hughes Drive, Wainscott, was also remanded in custody. All pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply class A drugs.

The 16-year-old, from Plumstead, London, pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply. Kirsty Powell, 21, of Aspen Green, Erith, pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of class A drugs.

All are to be sentenced on September 24.

River Ward by-election

A BY-ELECTION will be held next month to determine the next River Ward councillor.

The election was triggered by the resignation of Bill Esterson, who became Labour MP for Sefton Central, Merseyside, in May's General Election.

Nomination papers must be returned to Medway Council before this Friday.

If the election is contested, the vote will take place on Thursday, August 12, with polling stations open from 7am to 10pm.

River Ward has two elected councillors. The other is Conservative Craig Mackinlay.

Nautical, but even nicer

A CHATHAM Maritime pub has been given a £400,000 makeover.

The riverside Ship and Trades pub's interior has been remodelled with a nautical theme, with the lounge, two snugs and the restaurant trimmed with pictures of boats, maps and ropework.

The redevelopment has also created 11 en suite rooms decorated in the same style as the rest of the building.

The Shepherd Neame pub is a short walk from Dickens World, the Historic Dockyard Chatham, and the Dockside shopping centre.

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Yassmin's peak performance

HEALTH worker Yassmin Sanders, pictured above, is gearing up for a cycle challenge that will see her take on ten mountains in ten days.

The Medway NHS Trust legal assistant, from Maidstone, will start her fundraiser in the Pyrenees in September.

She said: "The aim is to do one mountain pass a day. We have to carry lots of kit, so it's going to be strenuous but worth it.

"I love cycling, so when the chance to take part in this trip came up I couldn't turn it down and it's for such a good cause – Macmillan Cancer Support. We're hoping to raise £10,000 before September."

Yassmin has been training by cycling from Maidstone to Gillingham via Blue Bell Hill twice a week. She said: "I'm going to be a regular fixture on Blue Bell Hill. If you see me cycling along, give me a toot."

Go to www.justgiving.com/Pyrenees2010-BB to donate.

Lack of safety focus led to powerboat tragedy

THE organisers of a powerboat race in which a Medway man died after two craft collided have been criticised in a report that found safety risks were not properly assessed.

■ BY **NICK AMES**

The Marine Accident Investigation Branch ruled that the August 2009 Dover Regatta race in the port's harbour had confusing rules and was run on a congested course. It also stated the Royal Yachting Association allowed a large number of inexperienced competitors to take part. Alex Edmonds, 41, died in the crash, which happened when the powerboat he was co-driving unintentionally lost control, turned sharply and slowed significantly.



TRAGEDY: Alex Edmonds

Another powerboat following behind had little opportunity to take avoiding action and struck the side of Mr Edmonds' boat, close to where he was sitting.

The impact tore off his helmet and he suffered severe injuries to his head and upper body. In its report, the investigation branch said: "The event took place on a foreshortened and compromised course, under confusing rules and without the risks being properly assessed.

"However, it was approved by the RYA and a large proportion of untrained novice and inexperienced competitors were permitted to race. Ultimately, it was the ability of the crews of the two boats that collided which caused the collision.

"However, they were racing under the auspices of an organisation that the investigation concluded had been insufficiently focused on safety, and had not made adequate attempts to control the race, or educate the crews about the risks they faced."

Mr Edmonds, who lived in Lower Stoke on the Isle of Grain, was a member of Allhallows Yacht Club near his home, were he was "very well liked". After the tragedy, tributes were paid to him.

His father, Ronald Edmonds, said: "I went down to the boat and broke the police cordon. I saw my son and the condition he was in wasn't nice. He was still conscious and was in a great deal of pain. He wasn't only a son to me, he was also my best friend."

The club's president, Barry Frame, said Mr Edmonds "loved being out on the water" and "always had a smile on his face".

He said: "Members are devastated, absolutely shocked. People who knew him here are greatly saddened. He was very, very well liked. He went down there for the weekend to compete in the race – it's something we do all the time.

"Of course, it's a sport which has an element of risk, but everything is put in place to try to eliminate those risks."

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Warner Cricket St Thomas Chard, Somerset Monday 2 - Friday 6 August Half board & includes excursions £295.00	Warner Nidd Hall Harrogate Monday 27-Friday 1 October Half board & includes excursions £325.00

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QUESTION & ANSWER

ANNE GREGORY



Q&A

The Maidstone and Medway Cat Club secretary talks to **Mathew Beech** about her love of cats, what the club offers to members and why her hobby is really a full-time occupation and lifestyle

Q Tell us about yourself.

A My name is Anne Gregory and I am secretary of the Maidstone & Medway Cat Club.

Q How many cats do you have?

A I have nine. They're all neutered and much loved pets. Apart from a male Egyptian Mau, the others are retired breeding queens.

Q Tell us a bit about the Maidstone & Medway Cat Club.

A This is an area club affiliated to the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (the cat equivalent of the Kennel Club). We have just over 200 members from around the country mainly because they want to exhibit their cats at our Annual Christmas Championship show. This was always held at the Black Lion, but, since it has been refurbished for the Olympic Games they are no longer able to hire their hall for non-sporting events. So, we had to move our show to the Bracknell Leisure Centre in Berkshire which was the nearest hall with sufficient facilities. www.maidstoneandmedwaycat-club.co.uk gives a real picture of our club.

Q How did you get involved with the club?

A I belonged to the club as it was local to me and then 20 years ago my husband and I were asked to manage their annual show – the rest is history.

Q What is your role within the club?

A I am the secretary; one of the show managers; membership secretary and liaison for welfare.

Q What is the best part of this role?

A Meeting with the members and making sure they feel part of the club. We hold our annual general meeting in Hempstead and that is always a friendly, social get-together with plenty of lively discussion.

Q What is the worst part of your role?

A Writing up the minutes of meetings and those routine jobs.

Q How popular is the club?

A It is our annual show that is the popular event. We generally have around 500 cats, both pedigree and non-pedigree in competition. Exhibitors come from as far afield as Yorkshire or Devon and our judges too come from around the UK. We build the atmosphere to be as 'Christmassy' as possible and everyone comes along in a party mood!

Q Does the club compete at or visit competitions?

A It is our club members' cats that compete to win titles. In the GCCF we have strict rules for the welfare and wellbeing of all cats so cats cannot be shown more frequently than 13 days between shows. I am sure if you visited a show anywhere in the UK you could find a member of our club.

Q What type of advice does the club give out to cat owners?

A We advise cat owners on all areas as far as the welfare and wellbeing of cats is concerned. All cats not specifically owned for breeding should be neutered. No cats should be allowed to wander free at night time. We advise on cat care, diet and best practice when owning, breeding and showing. We have talks at our AGM from Cat Behaviourists; Cat Rescue Organisations etc.

Q What do you like to do in your free time?

A I would say my hobby is a full time occupation. I'm on several cat club committees and breed advisory committees; I am an all-breed judge for the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy and have been to the USA and Europe in that role as well as judging around the UK and Ireland. I am a member of the Executive Committee of the Governing Council and thoroughly enjoy my absorbing hobby/lifestyle.



Somme-thing to remember them

BY **NICK AMES**

THE bloodiest day in the history of the British Army – July 1, 1916 – was commemorated at poignant services large and small in northern France last week.

On the first day alone of the Battle of the Somme there were 60,000 casualties – including more than 19,000 dead.

Among the soldiers who advanced over no-man's-land towards a network of trenches and barbed wire under hails of machine-gun fire were two local regiments, The Buffs (East Kent) and the Royal West Kent (Queen's Own).

This year a tribute at the massive Memorial To The Missing at Thiepval in France remembered the sacrifice of a generation. The structure commemorates those who literally disappeared during the conflict, which ran from 1914-18 – blown apart, drowned in the mud or buried forever. On it are 72,000 names.

The recovered bodies of soldiers are buried in the graveyards that dot the area. Crosses are inscribed with name, age, unit and rank, along with the day that they died.

A total of 30 members of The Buffs and 20 Royal West Kent soldiers who fell in the first attack of the battle on July 1 are inscribed at Thiepval. And in total the monument has the names of 536 Buffs and 833 West Kent men.

The Battle of the Somme was one of the largest battles of the First World War and by the time fighting had petered out in late autumn 1916, more than 1.5 million casualties had been suffered by the forces involved.

A regimental sergeant major of The Buffs, called Moody, compiled an account of the opening day. He wrote: "On the great 1st of July the 55th Brigade, a unit of which was the 7th Battalion The Buffs, held the line in front of Carnoy, and its objective was a trench about 200 yards north of the Montauban-Fricourt road.



THE ONLY COLOUR'S RED: Swathes of poppies now carpet the fields of the Somme where so many lost their lives

"At 7am our barrage became intense and remained so till 7.22, at which time all guns of the trench mortar battery opened for eight minutes, and at the zero hour the whole brigade went forward to the assault. The Carnoy mine craters took six hours to clear, and six hours' very heavy fighting it was, carried out under 2nd Lieut. Tatum, whose excellent work was rewarded by a Military Cross.

"There is no doubt that during the whole operation, which was carried out more or less as planned, our troops encountered far more opposition than was anticipated; particularly was this the case at the craters, to attack which only two platoons were originally assigned, a number of men quite inadequate.

"The whole position, indeed, proved to be a very strong one, consisting of four lines."

The plan for the Somme offensive evolved out of Allied strategic discussions at Chantilly, Oise, in December, 1915.

The Anglo-French offensive was intended to create a breach in the German line which could then be exploited with a decisive blow.

With the German attack on Verdun on the River Meuse in February 1916, the Allies were forced to adapt their plans. The British Army took the lead on the Somme, though the French contribution remained significant.

The opening day of the battle on July 1, 1916, saw the British Army suffer the worst one-day combat losses in its history, with almost 60,000 casualties.

The conduct of the battle has been a source of historical controversy – senior officers such as General Sir Douglas Haig, the commander of the British Expeditionary Force, and Henry Rawlinson, the commander of Fourth Army, have been criticised for incurring severe losses while failing to achieve territorial objectives.

But other historians have portrayed the Somme as a vital preliminary to the defeat of the German Army, and one which taught the British Army valuable tactical lessons.

Now, dotted by immaculately-kept graveyards, the area around the Somme is largely farmland with wooded areas and villages.

But it still retains the legacy of the battle.

Each year explosives, weapons, helmets and even body parts are discovered as the earth gives up its secrets. Many finds are on display in the Museum of the Great War in the small town of Peronne – close to the front line of 1916.

Curator Frederick Hadley said: "We preserve the memory of a generation who fought and lost their lives here.

"The battle may be part of history now, but in this part of France it is very much alive.

"The crosses which commemorate the lives of these soldiers are a reminder of sacrifice by Britain, which sent men to protect our country.

"For that reason British visitors will always be welcome here."

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BY STEVE KNIGHT

County Show is going back to its rural roots

THOUSANDS of spectators will flock to Maidstone next weekend to enjoy the sights and sounds of the annual Kent County Show.

First held in 1923, the show is a celebration of rural life with typical attractions including bird of prey displays, agricultural demonstrations, livestock competitions and a young farmers area.

Total attendance for last year's three-day programme was about 80,000, but organiser the Kent County Agricultural Society (KCAS) hopes an improved marketing campaign will help swell that by at least a further 10,000.

As always, the show will be held at the County Showground in Detling, and will again run for three days from Friday, July 16.

Launching the show back in February, KCAS chairman George Jessel said he was putting the focus back on farming following criticism of previous events.

He said: "In the past there has been the odd criticism about us being too focused on aspects like selling cars and not enough on agriculture, but that's going to change.

"This year there will be lots of exciting new stands and rings, and the show will be more agriculturally and horticulturally-based.

"It's not going to be the old mundane run-of-the-mill show that perhaps we've been putting on in recent years. We're going to attack 2010 with real vigour and attract people back."

Interactive

You can see the KOS Media stall in the EcoVillage – a 7,000 sq m of space with 70 exhibitors. Whitstable-based EcoVillage will be promoting green businesses, products and organisations to people attending the show.

One of the main features of this year's show will again be the interactive Why Farming Matters attraction, which will allow visitors to learn something new about the countryside and where food comes from.

The Kent Young Farmers area is now larger than usual, as is the countryside area that will showcase hound pens, gundogs, birds of prey, terrier racing and more.

There will also be a new public lawn as well as wider viewing areas around the Astor Ring, which will host show-jumping classes and a display by the White Helmets Motorcycle Display Team.

Music will be provided by Mr Soul, Divine Abba, the Caribbean Melody Steel Band and Casablanca Steps.

A wide range of refreshments will also be available.

Advance tickets cost £15 per adult (£17 on the gate) and come with two complimentary child tickets per purchase.

Additional children cost £5 (£7.50 on the gate) and senior citizens £11 (£12 on the gate). Log on to www.kentshowground.co.uk or call 01622 630975 for more information.





ECO-FRIENDLY: The team from the EcoVillage (left) will be promoting the benefits of a greener way of life complete with a diverse range of businesses and stallholders

Be sure to make a stop at this green and pleasant EcoVillage

ONE of the highlights of this year's County Show will be the EcoVillage, which promotes green businesses, products and organisations.

This year's area will feature a varying range of exhibitors – including a stall run by KOS Media, publishers of this paper.

Other stands will range from solar energy to organic clothing, from investments and banking, to wildlife days out and food to cosmetics.

But all have one thing in common – they are committed to a greener way of doing business and conducting their lives.

Victoria Whitlock, director of EcoVillage, said: "We are extremely happy to be at The Kent County Show for the third year running.

"Despite tough economic times, it shows that environmental issues are very important to people and we can show there are ways to protect the environment without spending huge amounts of money."

This year the area covers more than 100 exhibitors and demonstrations including Kent Wildlife Trust. Within the EcoVillage picnic area, Riverford Organic will be demonstrating how to cook with their organic vegetables, and Wildside Organic Grill will be there for those who like their organic food cooked for them.

There is also Fairtrade coffee from Carnival Coffee and an organic babyfeed and babychange area for parents within the Market Marquee.

The Kent Bee-keepers will be present with demonstrations on bee-keeping and plenty of information on how to keep and protect the fragile bee populations.

EcoVillage organisers know that ethical and green businesses need to expand and reach out to new people, so part of village will enabled exhibitors to engage with a wide range of people and educate them about their products and services, while also broadening people's awareness of the importance of building a sustainable future.

But they emphasise that the EcoVillage is not just about creating a space for green and ethical companies to sell products.

They aim to give all exhibitors as much support as possible, priding themselves on a personal approach.



yourmedwayschools

BREAK TIME

Competition is calling all artists

A COMPETITION for budding artists to join an ancient collection has been launched.

The Rochester Bridge Trust has initiated the 2011 Bridge Warden's Art Prize for secondary school pupils and college sixth formers.

The historic trust is seeking a new piece to add to its collection under the theme of Crossing the Medway.

Professor Alan Cummings from the Royal College of Art will chair the judging panel, which will decide where the £100 prize money for the artist and their school goes to. Entries for the competition can be paintings, photographs, drawings or any other 2D media.

This is the second time the Bridge Warden's Art Prize has been run, with the previous contest being won by Oliver Green in 2007. Oliver's striking monochrome picture of Rochester Bridge is now displayed in the Trust's entrance hall at The Bridge Chamber.

Bridge Clerk of the Rochester Bridge Trust Sue Threader said: "The standard of entries for our first competition was exceptional.

"We are now looking forward to receiving high quality entries from talented art students working at sixth form standard for our second competition."

The closing date for entries is Tuesday, December 16.

Finalists will have their artwork displayed at a public exhibition on the Trust's premises in February 2011, with the awards ceremony on Tuesday, March 1.

Full details, including the rules and entry form, are on the Trust's website at www.rbt.org.uk.

Light graffiti illuminates new passion for physics

BY **MATHEW BEECH**

A GRANT from the University for the Creative Arts is helping to fund a bright new project to help disadvantaged youngsters.

UCA has given £30,000 to the colourful LightTAG scheme's illuminating initiative which aims to get teenagers interested in physics.

LightTag will host a series of workshops for 16-19-year-olds, where they will learn how to create light graffiti animations and photographs.

Project co-ordinator Tine Bech said: "LightTAG is a fun, educational project which brings science and art together.

"The LED graffiti really captures young people's imaginations and it makes the science behind the art easier for them to relate to.

Intrinsic

"We hope the workshops enable participants to express themselves creatively, build their confidence and offer them a sense of achievement when they see what they have created."

The unique effect is created using an innovative camera and different coloured LEDs.

The project, which costs £80,000 in total, is also being backed by the South East Physics Network (SEPnet) and the University of Surrey. The scheme will be rolled out in six communities throughout the South East.

A series of four-day workshops will be held at each site, teaching the technology and processes involved in creating the light drawing and animations.



LIGHT SHOW: The LightTAG scheme is hoping to make disadvantaged teenagers interested in the properties of physics

They will then create a high-profile, visually engaging piece of art, which challenges common assumptions about media, science and youth culture.

The director of Outreach at SEPnet Charlotte Thorley said: "LightTag is a fantastic opportunity for us to engage with new audiences as it will touch both the youth groups and the communities they live in.

"Physics is intrinsic to all the techniques used during the project, but isn't all about intense equations and maths.

"We want to provide a better understanding of the way the world works."

The project will culminate in a large event for all the participants and their families and friends at the BFI Southbank.

The exhibition of their photographs and animations will then tour the universities that are involved with the scheme.

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourmedway@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

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Senior ranks an option for savings

SENIOR ranks may be slashed from the Kent Police hierarchy as the new Chief Constable searches for £23 million of savings.

While staff and officer numbers were already expected to be reduced to tackle the three-year deficit, Ian Learmonth is refusing to rule out removing some of the highest positions in the force as well.

Norfolk Constabulary, his former employer, has already announced it is cutting the number of superintendents and chief superintendents by five and Mr Learmonth is now considering something similar for Kent.

There are 24 superintendents in Kent earning between £60,750 and £74,022 per year, and

BY **STEVE KNIGHT**

14 chief superintendents on between £72,543 and £76,680. The lowest ranked PC earns less than £23,000 per year. Mr Learmonth, who joined the force this month on £150,000 a year, said: "It's an area I want to have a look at but it's not just about reducing numbers, it's about the span of command in general and the need for a structure that's efficient and effective.

"We're going to have to look at the resources we've got, how we use them and if we can do things in a different way, and adjusting senior officer numbers is certainly something we would need to consider.

"But particularly at times like this the organisation needs good effective leadership, so I wouldn't want to streamline too much and risk causing more damage than good."

Mr Learmonth, 52, was Deputy Chief Constable of Norfolk between August 2007 and June this year. He beat three other candidates to earn the right to replace former chief Michael Fuller, who left Kent in March to take up a new position as chief inspector of the Crown Prosecution Service. But Mr Learmonth joins the force at a time of great uncertainty due to a planned shake-up that would result in police authorities – which chief constables are currently accountable to – being replaced by 'commissioners' elected by the public.

Kent Police Authority chairwoman Ann Barnes, who has previously voiced fears about such individuals being politically motivated, did not attend Mr Learmonth's first press conference as she was discussing the controversial plans with Home Secretary Theresa May.

Mr Learmonth said: "There is a degree of nervousness about the proposals, but that's mostly because of the lack of detail.

"From what I've read so far, the relationship between directly-elected individual and chief constable would be very similar, if not exactly the same, as it currently is between chief constable and police authority.

"But the idea is that if the public wants to get rid of this individual they can vote them out. It appears they're building that system in to ensure whoever lands the role is still fully accountable."

There's a sting in the tail of marine jellyfish survey

LOOK but don't touch is message about the jellyfish off Kent's shores.

Marine biologists are calling on people to look out for jellyfish and report them as part of a national survey so experts can see where the really nasty ones are.

Peter Richardson of the Marine Conservation Society said: "We have received sightings of 50 or more moon jellyfish off Viking Bay Broadstairs, which is fairly normal for this time of the year.

"There might be more out there and we would love to hear of any other sightings. Moon jellyfish are quite common around the UK coast and their sting is very mild."

Gatherings of jellyfish are known as blooms, and as the seas warm, more will appear, Mr Richardson said. He added: "We encourage holidaymakers and those in the water to take part in our survey and report encounters. But the key message is look, don't touch."

The aim of the survey is to understand more about where and when jellyfish occur.

It is part of a wider Marine Conservation Society programme to discover more about leatherback turtles who migrate to UK waters to feed on jellyfish.

To report a jellyfish sighting, check the MCS jellyfish photo-ID guide and download a recording form from www.mcsuk.org.



IN BLOOM: Jellyfish off the Kent coast

Call for zero tolerance after violent attacks on 999 crews

AMBULANCE crews tending the sick and injured are being subjected to assaults and threats of violence on a weekly basis.

Figures reveal 107 assaults were reported by staff at South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust (SECAmb), which covers Kent, in 2008-09 – about two a week.

Nationwide there were 2,705 assaults between 2007-09, prompting calls by unions for a zero-tolerance policy where reported cases should lead to prosecution.

Justin Bowden, GMB national officer for ambulance services, said the figures were "shocking" and "unacceptable".

"Every day at least three ambulance workers nationwide are assaulted while doing their jobs," he said.

"Prosecutions in the South East have more than doubled in two years, with 35 in 2008-09 compared with just 16 in 2007-08. A SECAmb spokesman said ambulance staff were encouraged to report all incidents of violence, threats of violence and verbal abuse and the trust makes it clear it is not tolerated as part of the job."

He added: "SECAmb continues to support campaigns to reduce violence against NHS staff, including the Your Choice of Treatment campaign was launched in 2008.

"Campaign posters are carried on frontline vehicles and deliver a clear message that people who assault NHS staff will face prosecution and possible prison."

Last year, SECAmb security management specialist David Dixon and Unison representatives visited ambulance stations in Kent.

Mr Dixon said they continually advise employees they do not have to accept abuse from the public.

"We also want staff to know there are alternative measures available, such as private prosecutions, civil action and ASBOs, which can be taken against those who threaten them," he said.

We rest our case



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YOUR LETTERS



SPOTTED: The council spy car we reported on last week parked on double yellow lines

Council getting bad press for 'spying'

I was outraged last week to see the council's CCTV car parked on double yellow lines, one assumes

Cameras and cash will keep rolling

The author of the letter 'Spy cam operators should be first to go' has missed the point: there is no way they will be cut.

They are money-making machines. The sole reason for their existence is to squeeze as much money in fines out of motorists as possible in the quickest and most efficient way possible. It has been reported that a single car 'earned' £303,185 from penalty charges, against a cost of £118,430.

We should ask ourselves: is it right for the council to pass rules that put these cars above the very law that they are ostensibly there to enforce, so that they can extract yet more money from motorists? It is despicable and morally reprehensible.

Alan Bourne
By email



Reject city status bid your Majesty

How can the Queen grant Medway city status when it is not even a town? It is the name of a principal Kent river and the collective name for a collection of combined town councils.

If such a status is to be granted it should be for Rochester for its fine cathedral, castle and other historic buildings.

How can the declining (terminal) towns of Chatham and Gillingham ever be granted City status in relation to the other deserving cities of England?

Chatham town centre cannot even manage to keep decent shops let alone any historical buildings.

Rochester had the status before but is was carelessly lost by the council who should be seeking to restore the title of City of Rochester upon Medway.

John Cherry
Comment posted online at www.yourmedway.co.uk

yourblogger



After recent shooting outrages, Derek Packham suggests that UK gun-users get a raw deal

NO ONE, it seems, can be honest after the recent deaths caused by deranged gunmen Derrick Bird and Raoul Moat – but this subject has never been truly discussed by the majority.

The Parliamentary few, yes, who demolished thousands of jobs overnight through incompetent ranting which saw us landed with the 1968 Firearms Act.

However, one must consider reality – not the whims of a few, especially as we are entitled to own firearms in perpetuity, as declared in our Bill of Rights 1689.

Yet for years Parliament and the police have ignored this Bill, apart from using it to save themselves.

I, as a free person, present this to the people because it is our right – a right that the PC Brigade among others tries to deny us.

Today we have a multi-billion-pound industry wiped out by panic and hypocrisy.

Million-pound shooting ranges are built just for the Olympics, but our teams must practise overseas because of the reactionary and biased laws we endure due to the odd maniac blowing a fuse.

Reality shows that criminal use of firearms has risen and no manner of figure-twisting can hide that.

We had the strictest laws before the post-Dunblane panic mantra began, yet the blind have followed since.

Now we see our Prime Minister using common sense rather than panic to gather votes. We have a new debate on the horizon that could ensure our rights are finally upheld.

Facts show globally that, apart from America, countries with legal defensive arms have less criminal use, less burglary and less murder.

They also have jobs, investment and development bringing billions into the economy, enhancing GDP.

Those countries are also performing far better than our teams in the shooting sports.

There will be a debate again as there always is when a disaster arises.

But this time we have the option of reinstating rights lost, redefining our global manufacturing and sporting status and reinstating our sporting strengths, while redefining our discriminating and biased laws such as the Firearms Act, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Instruments 1980,1988, 1994, and not least the Hunting Act 2004.

It about time our true historic rights were upheld by those who serve us and not abused by the same.

All these Acts have failings, not least in their management, but also this undemocratic abuse of power – which is also illegal under human-rights conventions.

The fact is that all the associated Acts could be set under one convention if our true Bill of Rights was followed, used as the true and only guidance that Parliament requires to get it right.

The Prime Minister should look at what is required – not what the police want. Now we'll see if Parliament stands by its mandate for the people.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, Simon Robinson, on 01303 817185 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Medway blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourmedway.co.uk.

Labour by-election tactics a disgrace

The timetable Bill Esterson MP used to resign as a councillor for River Ward, following his General Election success in Sefton Central, was beyond belief.

Mr Esterson had been a member of Medway council since its creation, but stood as a candidate for the Sefton Central constituency in the General Election, and won the seat convincingly.

Labour have already selected a new candidate and have begun delivering their first leaflet in readiness for the by-election.

I argued as soon as he was selected for the Sefton Central seat that he should resign, as it was beyond belief that someone could fight an election campaign 200 miles away from his council constituents.

Instead, he said he would handle casework via his BlackBerry, which would deny his constituents 'face time' with their elected representative.

After eight weeks in both roles, it looked as though he was going to continue this method for a year, but eventually resigned. However, by the time he resigned Labour had already selected a candidate and prepared their first by-election leaflet.

I think that it is disgusting, and in insult to his former constituents, that he should hold on merely to allow Labour to select a candidate and prepare their literature before any other party.

Clearly Labour are scared of losing the vote, but that is no reason to wait a second longer than necessary before resigning.

Alan Collins
By email



Light in the sky was definitely not a plane

We saw something very similar on Saturday night at about 10.30pm (July 3, 2010).

If my husband hadn't been out in the garden with me I would have thought I was going mad. It was Definitely not a plane as there was no noise and we get planes going over all the time so know the flight paths – this was going north. But it was a different shape – it was glowing orange and was oval at the front with a sort of tail, and it was big. I thought it was on fire and it would drop from the sky.

Sue Cook
Comment posted online at www.yourmedway.co.uk

Spending cuts will hurt the vulnerable

Medway Green Party were present alongside Unison, Medway Trades Council, and representatives from youth groups.

Around 40 people attended and judging by the cheers and toots from passing motorists, the public in general are apprehensive about this budget.

The protest was organised predominantly to highlight the risks to the public sector both in jobs and in the services they provide.

Cutting public services rather than increasing taxes on the more wealthy hurts the poor and vulnerable. By reducing council budgets services must be cut, how else will the money be saved?

Also, a two-year freeze on public sector pay is a pay cut for all and means that public sector workers are being forced to pay for bankers' mistakes.

Over the coming months you the fallout from this Budget will be felt in job losses, and reduction in the least used services which predominantly support the most vulnerable but are nonetheless of critical health and welfare importance.

In addition, there is a strong likelihood of a second wave (a double dip) recession causing deflation in the economy. This would follow the same pattern as Japan in the late 90s, which has taken them 15 years to recover from.

In spite of the Chancellor's protestations, this Budget was avoidable and unfair. It was a massively failed opportunity to shift the economy onto a fairer, greener pathway.

The devastating public spending cuts of the sort announced are not 'unavoidable' – in fact they are unnecessary. They are not an economic inevitability, they are an ideological choice, one which has been made by this Conservative-LibDem coalition which nobody voted for.

Trish Marchant
Medway Green party

Viral meningitis – be aware of the signs



RECOVERED: Joe Swash

I would like to remind your readers to be vigilant to the signs and symptoms of viral meningitis as the temperatures continue to soar this summer. Cases of the disease are known to peak during periods of hot weather.

Although viral meningitis isn't life threatening, it can take people a long time to recover and there is no vaccine to prevent it.

I was struck down by a rare form of viral meningitis in September 2005. It came on very suddenly and at first I though I'd had a stroke as I couldn't feel the left side of my body. Then violent headaches started and I started to drift in and out of consciousness.

Doctors diagnosed with meningoencephalitis, which causes inflammation of the brain. I spent a total of six weeks in hospital and needed three months off work to recover. It left me struggling with my co-ordination, speech and I feared my acting days were over.

Having had meningitis myself I know what people go through and also what they constantly go through after having had it, which is why I'm supporting Meningitis UK and urging people to be extra alert at this time of year.

The initial symptoms are the same as bacterial meningitis, its more dangerous counterpart, which can kill in under four hours. Meningitis UK advises people to look out for a headache, stiff neck, dislike of bright light, fever, feeling sick, confusion and drowsiness, diarrhoea and aching joints.

Treatment is usually rest and painkillers and most people make a full recovery without being admitted to hospital. But, in a small number of cases, people who have suffered from viral meningitis may experience after-effects such as recurring headaches, exhaustion, deafness, tinnitus (ringing in the ears), memory loss, lack of co-ordination or confusion.

I urge your readers to request a symptoms information pack, or make a donation to the Search 4 a Vaccine Campaign, by calling Meningitis UK on 0117 373 7373 or visiting www.meningitisuk.org

Joe Swash,
Actor and Meningitis UK patron

Historic buildings crumble in crunch

HISTORIC buildings at risk of crumbling into non-existence are suffering further from the global economic downturn, says English Heritage.

The charity published its annual Heritage at Risk register this week, revealing that 101 castles, monuments and other listed buildings in Kent face the very real possibility of falling apart due to a lack of investment.

But it's not all bad news for the county, as two previously at-risk structures – the Montreal Park Obelisk in Sevenoaks and the barn at Westenhanger Castle near Hythe – have both been removed from the register.

Dr Andy Brown, English Heritage's regional director in the South East, said: "We have been monitoring the buildings for 10 years and what is telling is that for the first time we have not been able to make very much progress on the register.

"Some of these repair projects have not been able to get off the ground, mostly because the recession means people are reluctant to put money in and are worried about what is over the horizon.

"But if people put off the low key maintenance such as keeping the gutters clear and roof tiles straight to save money, it is such a false economy and you can end up with expensive projects."

The contents of this year's Heritage at Risk register were announced on Wednesday at the Grade I listed Hadlow Tower, near Tonbridge, which suffered damage in the great storm of 1987.

While the 19th century structure has been included on the register since its inception in 1999, plans are now well under way to bring it back into use as a holiday property.

Volunteer Blood Runners needed to save lives

A CHARITY relied upon by hospitals to provide emergency blood supplies to patients throughout the night has sent out its own cry for help.

The Kent branch of SERV (Service by Emergency Rider Volunteers) – also known as the Blood Runners – currently has about 60 volunteers who regularly save lives by delivering blood to A&E departments from London at short notice.

But if the group wants to work during the day at weekends like the hospitals have requested, it is going to need even more helpers to come forward.

Tim Kidd, chief co-ordinator for SERV Kent, said: "It's always good to have more volunteers.

"Currently we only do a night service (between 7pm and 6am, seven days a week) but we would like to extend that to Saturday and Sunday daytime because that's what the hospitals want from us.

"We can only do that if we have enough people, and at the moment we do not."

BY **STEVE KNIGHT**

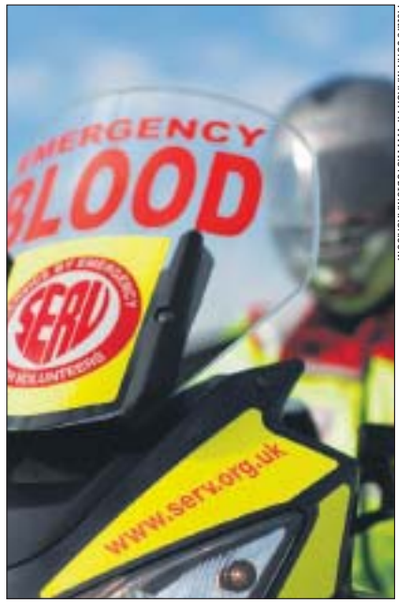
The national SERV organisation was founded in 1981 when it became evident the NHS was wasting money on courier services and taxis to do the same job, or taking police cars and ambulances off the road.

SERV Kent was formed 13 years later, and last year its army of volunteers – the majority of whom drive motorbikes – attended 554 call-outs.

"Most of our helpers do it to give something back," said Mr Kidd. "Some have had nasty car or bike accidents and benefited from our service, while others have relatives who needed blood due to problems during pregnancy.

"We're a very friendly and proactive organisation, and we all get a lot of satisfaction out of doing something that could potentially save someone. Our volunteers know that what we do could literally be the difference between life and death."

Before last year the Blood Runners mainly operated in the west of the county, but now the majority of hospitals in Kent – including Medway, Maidstone, William Harvey and more – benefit from the service.



Picture: JOHN MARSH AT WWW.STUDIOMARSH.COM

MISSION: Kent branch of SERV needs more volunteers to extend its life-saving service to cover weekends

The majority of the supplies picked up by the volunteers come from a blood bank in Tooting, south London, which is relayed to the edge of the city for collection.

Mr Kidd said: "We don't need tons of money because we're all volunteers and therefore don't pay for fuel expenses or anything like that.

"However, we always welcome donations because we need to pay for things like maintaining the bikes."

Email secretary@servkent.org for more information about becoming a volunteer.



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DAY & NIGHT

Sign up for talent show

TALENTED performers could win £1,000 in the Gimme A Break Talent Show at the Avenue Theatre in Sittingbourne.

Bookings are now being taken for the November 7 and 14 rounds. Email countmein@rossfriday.com or visit www.gimmeabreaktalentshow.com to find out more.

Drama groups compete

LOCAL amateur dramatics groups are competing in the Duncan Rand One-Act Play Festival this week.

Running until Saturday, July 24, the festival takes place at the Medway Little Theatre in Rochester. To book tickets call 01634 400322 or go online at www.mlt.org.uk.

Invitation to artists

YOUNG artists, secondary school and sixth-form students in Medway are invited to enter the Bridge Wardens' Art Prize 2011 competition.

The Rochester Bridge Trust is looking for a contemporary image on the theme of 'crossing the Medway', which could be a painting, drawing, photograph or any other 2D medium. For details visit www.rbt.org.uk.

The Crooner entertains

SINGER Martin Croones presents an evening of easy listening music in Maidstone this weekend.

Covering songs by icons like Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly and Neil Sedaka, Croones will be at Tovil Working Men's Club at 8.30pm on Saturday. Find out more at www.freewebs.com/thecrooner or emailing thecrooner@talktalk.net

Mosaics workshop

LEARN how to make mosaics at Polka Dot Art Centre in Teynham.

Every Tuesday the centre in London Road hosts a workshop from 10am to 4pm. Take a three-week course for £33, including materials, or bring your own project and pay £4 per hour. For details go to www.polkadotac.co.uk or call 01795 521167.

Make song and dance

ANYONE who longs to both sing and dance could be in luck with the new Maidstone Show Choir.

The choir is open to anyone with enthusiasm, giving people the chance to sing musical theatre numbers and popular hits, coupled with fun choreography.

Call Jess Walter on 01622 673645 or email maidstoneshowchoir@gmail.com.

Arts Forum meeting

ARTISTS and arts organisations are invited to discuss the future of Swale Arts Forum next week.

The independent arts development and promotional group will hold its first annual meeting at the Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne, at 6.30pm on Thursday.

The meeting will be followed by an open discussion about what people want for the arts scene in Swale.

The best of Kent comes together

KENT COUNTY SHOW

Friday, July 16, to Sunday, July 18
Kent Showground, Detling

AN EXTRAVAGANZA of country fun is on offer as this year's Kent County Show focuses on farming.

From terrier racing to tractors, the three-day event offers visitors the chance to learn more about Kent's agricultural heritage, the future of farming and the origins of the food we eat every day. Experience great entertainment, learn something new about the countryside and enjoy a fun family day out at the traditional show.

In the Why Farming Matters zone, there will also be cookery demonstrations, displays of machinery and a children's fun area, along with information on how to make a career in agriculture. The popular sheep show returns to entertain spectators and teach them about the process of sheep shearing and wool production.

The Young Farmers Area has been extended this year, and boasts a more prominent ring to accommodate the professional displays of livestock and small animals. It is hoped that more young people will be attracted to agriculture as a career and there will be representatives from a number of agricultural and rural companies, including Hadlow College.





Competitions

Packed with entertainment throughout the three days, the show's many highlights include livestock displays, riding competitions, ferret racing, a flower show and an area where children can meet small, furry animals.

In the Countryside Ring, spectators can be entertained by a wide variety of rural pursuits, such as fishing, birds of prey, terrier racing, dogs and ducks displays, donkeys, gundogs and foxhounds. Visitors to the Countryside Area can also see a mole show, ferret racing and more.

Motor enthusiasts will be in seventh heaven with displays of tractors, pre and post-war cars, steam engines, motorcycles, commercials and buses.

A new feature this year is the Village Green area, where visitors can enjoy traditional fete-style entertainment including Punch and Judy Shows, a hula hoop workshop, maypole dancing, cricket on the green, Morris dancers, bell ringing and tug of war.

Live music at the Bandstand will add to the atmosphere, with performances by the Caribbean Melody Steel Band, Casablanca Steps, The KM Band, Divine ABBA, The Salvation Army, Churches Together and more.

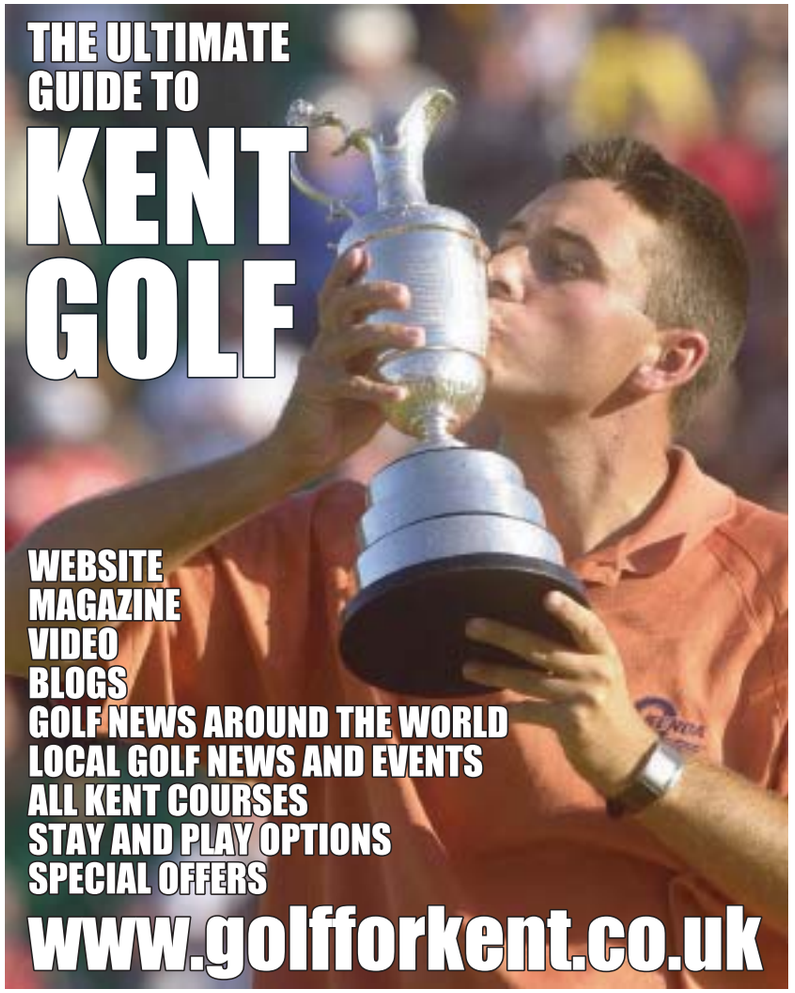
There will even be a Guinness World Record attempt at the Ford and Fordson Expo VI, with the largest gathering of Fordson narrow and hop garden tractors to ever take place in preservation times.

More than 120 machines will be on display and it has taken organiser Rodney Gibson a year to bring the special group of tractors together.

Dating back to 1918, the collection of tractors will parade in the Main Brachers Astor Ring each day, with commentary from tractor journalist and author Peter Love.

In the main arena, the Royal Signals White Helmet Motorcycle Display Team will keep the audience gasping with its exhilarating display of skill, performed on British Millennium Triumph 750cc motorcycles.

Tickets cost £15/£11 for adults and £5 for children. Visitors can apply for a complimentary child ticket for each adult ticket purchased in advance. To book call 01622 633060 or visit www.kentshow.co.uk.


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CASTLE CONCERTS

Wednesday, July 14, to Sunday, July 18, Rochester Castle

TOP names in pop music and tomorrow's stars perform in the Castle Concerts this week.

Veteran rockers Status Quo get the party started tonight, and will be setting off air guitars everywhere.

Tickets have already sold out for Will Young's concert on Thursday, but there will be a double bill of star groups to enjoy on Friday, when street dance phenomenon Diversity supports girl group, The Saturdays. For more information about the group visit www.thesaturdays.co.uk.

The series draws to a spectacular close on Saturday when the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra performs in the Castle Proms, with guest soprano Camilla Kerslake and classical group Blake, followed by a breath-taking fireworks display.

On Sunday, local youngsters aged from 13 to 19 will perform in the third Under Siege concert, covering everything from alternative rock to musical theatre. Admission is free.

To book, call 01634 338338, go to www.castleconcerts.co.uk, the Brook or Central Theatres in Chatham or the Medway Visitor Information Office.



THE WAR AND PEACE SHOW

Wednesday, July 21, to Sunday, July 25, The Hop Farm, Paddock Wood

HISTORY comes to life in thrilling style this week at the world's largest military vehicle action spectacular.

Now in its 28th year, The War and Peace Show offers visitors of all ages the chance to learn about important periods in British history and see 4,000 fascinating vehicles. To mark the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II, there will be re-enactments of exciting battle scenes, along with war camps and trenches.

This year's event will be particularly poignant as the Spitfire 'Spirit of Kent' and the Messerschmitt 108 both make a welcome return to the show, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

In their authentic wartime livery and looking in top condition, the aeroplanes are sure to make a moving spectacle when they swoop above the crowds. The Red Arrows will also pay a visit on Thursday.

Other attractions include helicopter fly-overs, tank manoeuvres, a model marquee, 1940s fashion, music and dance, a funfair, and live entertainment.

Find out more about the War and Peace Show online at www.thehopfarm.co.uk or www.thewarandpeaceshow.com.

THEY WILL ROCK YOU

Thursday, July 22, Orchard Theatre, Dartford

SPEND an evening in the company of two legendary bands as They Will Rock You returns to Kent.

The brand new show marks the 35th anniversary of iconic song, Bohemian Rhapsody, by inviting audiencss to enjoy the music of Freddie Mercury and Queen. They will be joined by a tribute to ABBA, offering a fantastic night out for fans of both rock and pop.

Queen B has performed for stars such as Sir Paul McCartney and Sir Richard Branson, bringing the sound of this unforgettable band back to the live stage. Fans can look forward to renditions of Another One Bites the Dust, We Are the Champions, the classic Bohemian Rhapsody and more.

Dancing queens will be in their element as ABBA Magic get those platform shoes tapping to the sounds of Mamma Mia, Super Trouper, Waterloo and Winner Takes It All.

The cast have just returned from a tour of Brazil and are ready to whisk audiences back in time with their polished music, vocals and choreography.

The show starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £19.50. Book online at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01322 220000.





COMEDY CLUB

Friday, July 16, Tudor Park, Maidstone

THREE great comedians will be paying a visit to Maidstone this week when the Comedy Club rolls into town.

The evening will be kept in order by Scottish comic Paul Pirie, whose shows at the Glasgow Comedy Festival have been sell-out successes. In 2006 he earned second place in the Scottish Comedian of the Year Award.

Taking ordinary things and making them hilarious is the forte of observational comedian Dougie Dunlop, pictured. After starting out at The Stand in his home town of Edinburgh, Dunlop has gone from strength to strength and has been chosen to support a number of high-profile comedians on tour.

Not only is John Ryan an award-winning comic, but he is also appeared on a special edition of The Weakest Link just for comedians. He has explored men's health issues in his shows and is working on ongoing projects with the London Science Museum and Unison.

The show, which is suitable for over-18s, starts at 8.30pm and tickets cost £14 or £12 for Comedy Club members. To book call 01622 632006 or visit www.hahaheehee.com for more information.

RITA HOSKING

Monday, July 19, Breeze Bar, Maidstone

FUELLED by a lifelong love of folk music, Rita Hosking has become an international music artist.

Blending folk, country and bluegrass, Hosking takes the memories of her childhood growing up in the mountains of Shasta County, northern California, and pours them into her passionate sounds and stories.

She first discovered music at church as a child and continued her education with an old-time jug band, made up of mountain characters with a wealth of experience between them. As a descendant of Cornish miners, Hosking has inherited a love of song, folk music and the power of the voice.

Her third album, Come Sunrise, has already attracted much acclaim and this tour will showcase some of her new songs. Before heading out on her UK tour, Hosking recorded an interview and session for Bob Harris Country on BBC Radio 2 and music lovers should not miss the chance to see her perform live.

She will be joined by Sean Feder on Dobro and banjo and Hosking will be co-headlining with Elizabeth Cook. The show starts at 7pm and tickets cost £14 in advance or £16 on the door. Call 01622 744481 or visit www.mavericklive.co.uk.



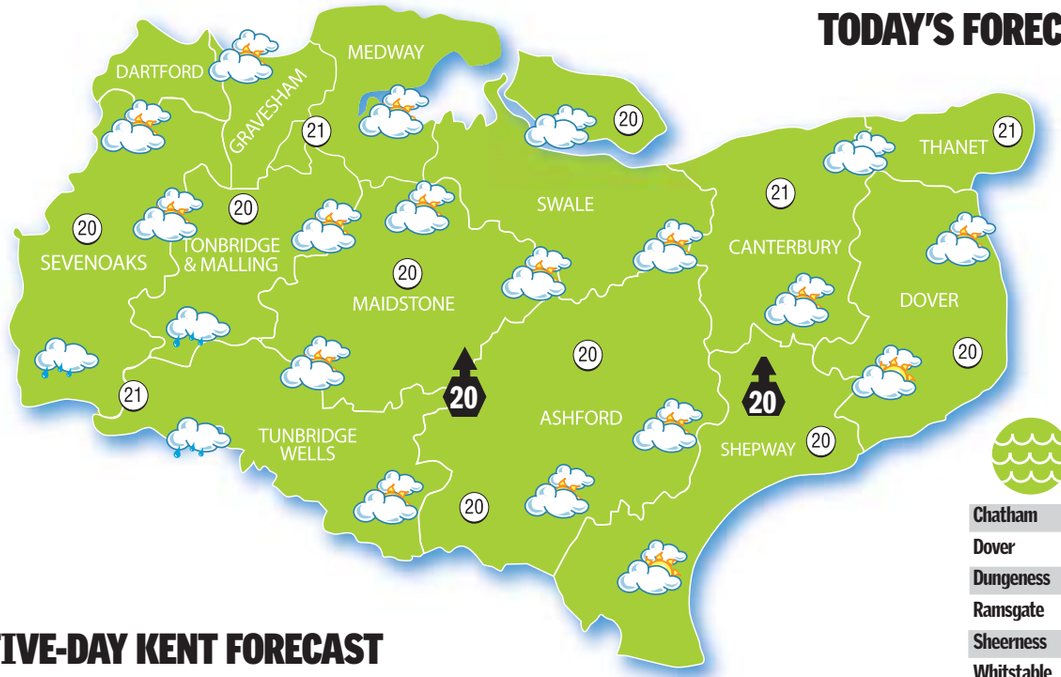
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TODAY'S FORECAST



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	22°C	Madrid	34°C
Athens	32°C	New York	31°C
Barcelona	29°C	Paris	22°C
Beijing	24°C	Rome	30°C
Bombay	29°C	Sydney	16°C
Cape Town	13°C	Tenerife	34°C
Cardiff	19°C	Tokyo	27°C
Gibraltar	28°C	Vancouver	22°C
Hong Kong	33°C	Warsaw	29°C
Las Palmas	29°C	Wellington	8°C

KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	5:41pm 6.1m	Sunday	6:19am 5.9m
Dover	Saturday	4:09pm 6.6m	Sunday	4:57pm 6.4m
Dungeness	Saturday	3:54pm 7.6m	Sunday	4:47pm 7.2m
Ramsgate	Saturday	4:39pm 5.1m	Sunday	5:27pm 4.9m
Sheerness	Saturday	5:30pm 5.8m	Sunday	6:08am 5.6m
Whitstable	Saturday	5:36pm 5.4m	Sunday	6:18am 5.1m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	20°C	22°C	20°C	20°C	22°C
Canterbury	21°C	23°C	21°C	21°C	21°C
Chatham	20°C	22°C	21°C	21°C	21°C
Dartford	21°C	23°C	22°C	22°C	22°C
Dover	20°C	21°C	19°C	20°C	20°C
Faversham	20°C	22°C	21°C	21°C	21°C
Folkestone	20°C	21°C	19°C	20°C	20°C
Gillingham	20°C	22°C	21°C	21°C	21°C
Gravesend	21°C	23°C	22°C	22°C	22°C
Maidstone	21°C	23°C	21°C	21°C	22°C
Ramsgate	21°C	23°C	21°C	21°C	21°C
Rochester	20°C	22°C	21°C	21°C	21°C
Sevenoaks	19°C	21°C	19°C	20°C	20°C
Sittingbourne	20°C	22°C	21°C	21°C	21°C
Tonbridge	21°C	22°C	20°C	20°C	22°C
Tun Wells	21°C	22°C	20°C	20°C	22°C

SUNRISE 4.53am SUNSET 9.08pm

MOONRISE 8.31am MOONSET 10.15pm







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For information and advice on travelling in Kent and for all our traffic regulation orders, please see the Saturday Observer or the Kent on Sunday or visit our website at **www.kent.gov.uk/highways**

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WIN! music festival tickets

THE Sound Island Music festival returns to Quex Park later this month, giving music fans the chance to see a host of stars by the sea.

Madness will headline the first day of the Margate weekender, on Saturday, July 24, with support from Lightning Seeds and The Blockheads.

A number of emerging pop stars will perform at the same venue the following day, with boy-band JLS the main draw.

KOS Media have a pair of tickets for JLS and a pair of tickets for Madness, have a look at the lineups below and see which one you would like to win.

Saturday, July 24 lineup:
Madness
Lightning Seeds
The Blockheads
King Blues
(Car park 3pm – Gates 4pm – Concert 5pm)

Sunday, July 25 line-up:
JLS
Chipmunk
Diana Vickers
Alex Gardiner
RD (Rough Diamondz)
The Score

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of Saturday tickets to the concert, to watch Madness and Special Guests, just answer this question: **What type of trousers do Madness sing about in one of their songs?**

Flared
Baggy
Tight

To enter, simply text your answer to 80012. Messages cost 50p. The text line closes at midnight July 20, 2010, and the lucky winner will be notified by July 21, 2010. Messages cost 50p.

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To be in with a chance of winning a pair of Sunday tickets to the concert, to watch JLS just answer this question: **What reality TV show shot JLS to fame?**

Big Brother
Fame Academy
X Factor

To enter, simply text your answer to 80012. Messages cost 50p. The text line closes at midnight July 20, 2010, and the lucky winner will be notified by July 21, 2010. Messages cost 50p.

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What's in this supplement...

INDEPENDENT businesses are the 'backbone of the economy' according to contributor Nick Rowell on page 27.

In a world where it is all too easy to fall into the supermarket clubcard mentality – just because it's easy – there are thousands of small businesses offering the customer something special.

This supplement looks to celebrate some of the independent business successes and, hopefully, make you consider spending more of your money locally.

And for a few of you, it may provide the inspiration to set up your own business or to go it alone.

It is all too easy to become dragged down by the economic doom mongers and this supplement is a celebration of some of our most successful small businesses and a reminder that there is life after the credit crunch.

And it is the independent traders who are leading the way…

Page 25
Why small businesses will lead Britain out of recession, and may offer you an opportunity for self-employment.

Pages 26-27
Why independent entrepreneurs are the backbone of our economy and deserve your support.

Page 28
How putting customers first has earned award-winning success for a family-owned garage

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And the independent motorcycle retailer whose independence attracts customers from across the country

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The boss of another award-winning small company with a solid growth record, reveals his secret of success.

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The landscape gardening firm with a environmental belief that's blossomed after only eight years.

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There are so many opportunities for you to benefit from independent traders who offer something unique.

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Why we are lucky to have some of the best local food and produce in the country and we talk to the boss of a company that is bringing the very best right to your doorstep.





BY THE EXTREME INSPIRATIONIST

Small businesses are the future of our economic success – support them

WHAT'S your choice: employed or self-employed? In the current economic climate, no one is safe.

And yet, there is a very strong case with compelling evidence that says the self-employed are better placed to survive than those who are employed – whatever their level.

It's not just that employed work is in big danger, it's also a critical factor that third world markets are fast catching on to capitalist values, and many in those cultures are prepared to work very hard for very little money.

Have you ever been to a street market in India or Africa, where those traders are selling like their lives depended on it? Well, the truth is, their lives do depend on it.

And those suppliers are already a big and growing part of our business culture here in Britain.

For example, lots of IT services are being sourced from abroad, and this is by small businesses here, including sole traders.

If I'm making employment look less attractive, then I'm only telling you how it is.

So what are the advantages to being a sole trader?

As a sole trader, you can react and adapt to market changes quickly without needing to get approval from somebody higher up.

You can come up with new services or products quickly to meet the changing needs of the market, something which the large multinationals can't do in a hurry.

And what you create for your customer is more choice, more local service (no call centre to wait for) and closer, more intimate relationships with your customer (if you do it right).

This offers a big advantage to the small business, because no one likes the call centre or the impersonal service. If you simply design your business so that someone answers the phone promptly and gives the customer real individual attention, you will stand out.

But don't get complacent just because you already have your own successful small business.

I recently bought a new Dell laptop and was blown-away with the after-sales and warranty support, even though I hadn't bought it (the warranty, that is). Their phone calls to me (yes, that's right, they called me back a total of six times) were from India and they over-delivered big time in relation to my expectation.

Over the next five to ten years, I guarantee that having your own business will become a massive advantage. This is going to become – and already is for some – the decade of the entrepreneur.

People with ideas, who can turn ideas into products, who can package those products, and find customers who really like and will pay for those products, will do well.

But it will need more than just that, of course.

And so to my first MUST: Do what the high-flyers do and 'take responsibility'. This is the common factor you see in those who are massively financially successful. They never look for excuses or reasons why not. They always accept that they are the cause, and the effect. Whatever they try, whether it succeeds or fails, is just another bit of learning and what they take from every failure is a growing opportunity to get closer to the idea that will work.

In order to succeed, you MUST go out there and fail! Napoleon Hill, author of think and grow rich said, 'Every failure brings with it the seed of an equivalent success.' That's what the big guys do. If you want to take advantage of our financial situation now, just go out there and try, and then try again and then try again. And then, just like Branson, or Trump, or Sugar, maybe you too will finally lose your virginity!

• Written by QJ, The Extreme Inspirationist. QJ leads inspirational, practical seminars showing businesses how to make more money and how to leverage their relationships to greater profit at the next level.

For more information or for regular inspiration, see www.theinspirationist.com, email: qj@theinspirationist.com, or call 0800 840 609.

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A positive future for the independents

By **Jo James**, Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce Chief



"I think Nick's piece neatly encapsulates the philosophy of and the importance to the economy of the independent sector.

As a Chamber of Commerce we, of course, support the entire business community, which includes everybody from sole traders to multi-nationals. It has to be said, however, that the majority of our members, and the majority of business within the area of our remit, are independents.

Indeed there is no doubt that the economic structure of this country is largely dependent on independent traders, always has been and probably always will be. It must also not be forgotten that from 'little acorns, mighty oak trees grow'. Even today's multi-national corporations, including the 'too big to fail' financial institutions, must surely have started out as part of what we now call the independent sector.

Public institutions, national and local, also depend heavily on input at their roots by smaller, independent traders.

So the independent sector can definitely be regarded as the backbone of our economy. It deserves both the recognition and support of all us to ensure that the backbone remains strong and supple."

Back to our roots

"MY father was a yeoman, but had no land of his own; only he had a farm … and hereupon he tilled so much as kept half a dozen men."

So begins bishop Hugh Latimer's first sermon preached before Edward VI. He goes on to explain how this same farm's income enabled his father to enlist as a soldier at the King's call-up, provide modest dowries for his daughters, and even pay for Hugh's schooling.

Backbone

It's often said that independent business is the backbone of the economy – and it's true: 98 per cent of businesses employ less than 50 people, and owner-run firms provide 58 per cent of Britain's jobs and an even bigger share of new jobs and business innovation. Trevor Baylis and James Dyson represent the tip of the iceberg. What Latimer's account also illustrates is how independent business is the backbone of society itself. Being your own boss isn't just to "not dread a peevish master": it empowers you to contribute to the common wealth.

Kent exemplifies this. Regular surveys by the British Chambers of Commerce show members of Kent's biggest Chamber, the Kent Invicta, less hard-hit by the recession and quicker to recover than elsewhere in the UK or even the rest of the South East.

Why? Well, we live in a beautiful, invigorating county, with long traditions of independent thought and action. Today this translates into two economic characteristics.

First, many of us trade with people we've known for years, making it easier to judge when it's wise to extend credit (literally 'trust'). Second, many already own their premises and means of production, and so are less indebted, with lower overheads.

This resourcefulness is good, and benefits every-





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Nick Rowell is director of policy at Kent's Invicta Chamber as well as running his own company, the Portable Business School. Here he looks at the reasons independent and small bussinesses are vital to our economy and why they deserve public support



one. The risk, as we notice global prosperity happening elsewhere but not reappearing here, is that our relative comfort will delay the one step most likely to improve our fortunes, and our children's. I mean a drive to leave our comfort zone and find new markets, by innovating and especially by exporting. The fact is, as things stand today we are collectively heading for the doldrums. The only future common wealth is if we yeomen make it happen. Even inward investment from outside Kent, unless we make it a springboard and grow our own enterprises, doesn't foster the necessary capital to endow the future life we hope for.

Challenge

In War and Peace Tolstoi reflects on the arrogance of different nations. The Frenchman, he writes, is arrogant because he knows he is irresistible to men and women alike; the Italian is arrogant because – well, he's not really arrogant, just excitable. The Englishman is arrogant because he knows that he knows, already, everything worth knowing; and the Russian is arrogant because he knows that nothing is worth knowing.

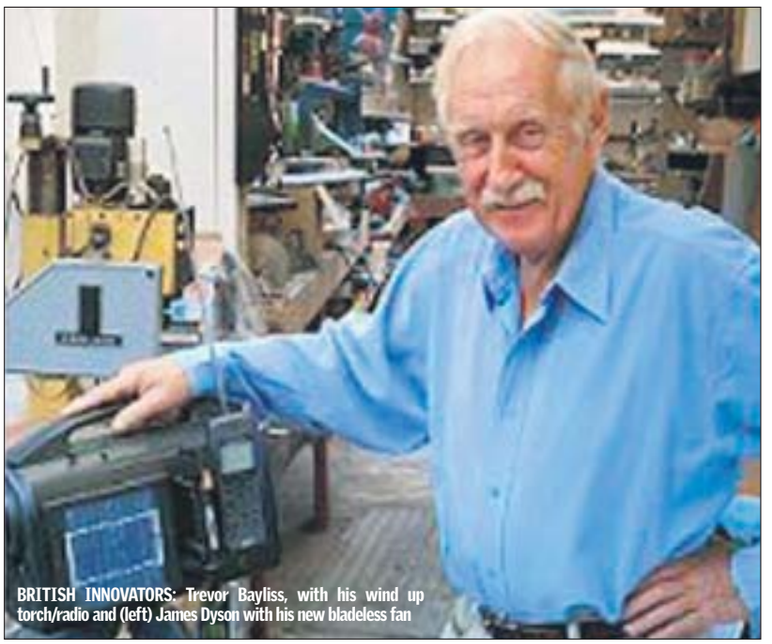
Now, 200 years on, most of us can see enduring truth in these caricatures. Our opportunity and our challenge as owner-managers is this: to rest impotently on what we feel we know – or to sharpen up? Are we going to get into better shape, physically and organisationally; to learn new skills; to take the risk of rejection by a hoped-for customer, learn our lesson and press on; to invest time, energy and cash in the hope of planting our banners – ie of transplanting our brands, for they are today's banners in peacetime – into places where they will flourish and draw new subscribers to buy into them?

I don't mean to be jingoistic about this (though Kipling's "If" is well worth taking to heart). The fact is, only our best efforts will do: the global competition is very determined and increasingly well-resourced. Our brands will only flourish if, after analysing our offer, we gear up to deliver exceptional value in distinctive ways that are hard to copy. We may supply goods and services abroad, mostly based on our culture or technical know-how.

Or we may, in markets abroad, promote our home strengths: tourism, for which Kent is so well-endowed; and study opportunities in English or skills we're rich in such as biosciences, IT software, or 'green' construction technologies.

Whatever strategy we pursue, success as ever will stem from our own vision and enterprise – funded, in the continuing absence of healthy banks, by ourselves.

• Nick Rowell is managing director of the The Portable Business School, a management development and consultant company. Tel 01622 753568, www.Tpbs.co.uk.



BRITISH INNOVATORS: Trevor Bayliss, with his wind up torch/radio and (left) James Dyson with his new bladeless fan

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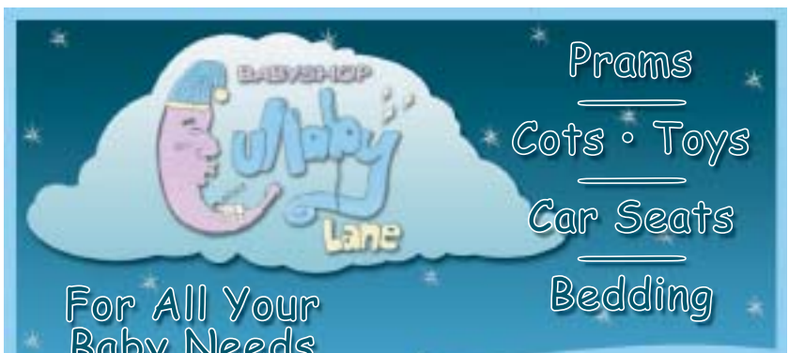
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Putting customers first – it's a winning formula

A COMMON sense approach to customer service has meant one Ashford independent garage has managed to trade successfully for 27 years.

D & D Autos on Orbital Park, is a family-run firm started by Derek Pestridge. It was winner in this year's Invicta Chamber of Commerce customer service award.

His daughter Lorraine Fuller who also works there said: "To get the prize was really exciting. We are an independent business and obviously garages do get a bad press for customer service but we have always had stringent checks that we have to have regarding customer service anyway.

"My dad thinks surely everyone looks after their customers like we do but we must be doing something different because of the testimonials we get from people and the fact they keep coming back."

Mr Pestridge started the business with one service bay at a site in Victoria Road but last year moved to purpose-built premises at the trading park.

Mrs Fuller said: "My dad bought a piece of land built the new garage on it. We moved there in February 2009. It was a challenge amidst the recession but we had outgrown the old premises and our hands were tied to some degree because the Victoria Road is going to be redeveloped as part of the new Victoria Way scheme."

At least the recession meant people were hanging on to their old cars which still needed to be serviced. And the new facilities meant the business could grow and expand into areas it was not able to cover before.

Mrs Fuller said: "We have drive-through MOT bays. We have invested in computerised wheel alignment equipment, tyre fitting facilities and new diagnostic equipment. Being a general garage we have to service many more makes and models than a main dealer so our investment in that equipment has to be broader.

"We now hope to be able to do fleet servicing because we have thirteen workshop bays and we are less restricted by our surroundings."

D & D autos were also highly commended in the business of the year category.

"Our customers were really pleased for us. We had letters of support. Once people have someone they know and can trust to look after their car you almost become like a family member.

"It's just common business sense really, if you treat your customers well and do the best you can for them then they will come back. We treat people how we would expect to be treated."



FAMILY BUSINESS: D&D Autos was started by Derek Pestridge

Get on

BY **JILL HURST**

IF YOU are planning on buying a motorbike you won't do much better than The Bike Shop in Faversham.

Based in The Mall this independent trader has been on the go since 1977 and won a plethora of awards including best South East dealer in 2008.

Founded by bike enthusiasts Tony Dunderdale and three times Isle of Man Grand Prix winner Thomas Knight each of their six employees is a bike enthusiast – perhaps the secret to this team's success.

Success



Sales Manager Gareth Peppin,48, joined the firm in 2006. He said: "We all love bikes and I think this is the key to our success. I moved to Kent and wanted to work with bikes and so came here. I genuinely look forward to coming to work.

"I think our strength is we pride ourselves on a personal customer service. We know all our customers by their first name and we have never had a complaint in the four years I've been here."

Gareth believes the high level of customer satisfaction is earned by not stretching the operation too far, providing a unique selling point when up against large corporations.

"The difference between us and the big companies is that we are not a production line. We sell around 300 bikes each year and that's

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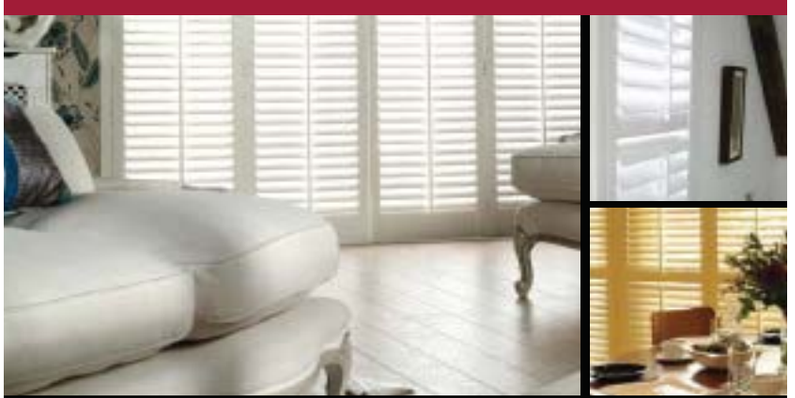
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enough. We don't offer huge discounts but sell at the price a bike is supposed to be. This way we can offer a one-to-one service and the customer leaves more satisfied."

The store is a Yamaha Franchise and runs with a day-to-day stock of around 100 bikes ranging from a Yamaha 125 scooter retailing at £1,600 to a £20,000 Yamaha V-Max. It also carries a large stock of second hand bikes of various models.

The staff also offer a complete service for novices taking care of everything from insurance to registration.



"A new learner could pick up something like a Yamaha YBR 125, learner bike for around £2,300," Gareth explained.

"This would include their insurance and we'd also organise a one day competence test, required to get them on the road until they take their bike test in about two years on."

Co-owners Tony and Tom have worked hard to make sure the shop is an integral part of the historic market town's sponsoring the annual classic car and bike show and supporting speedway and grass track racing.



COMPLETE SERVICE: The Bike Shop in Faversham sells a selection of bikes ranging from a Yamaha 125 scooter (left) retailing at £1,600 to a £20,000 Yamaha V-Max

Tony is an active member of the vintage bike group in the town and according to Gareth has built up a fierce reputation as a bike technician.

"Tony is a fantastic bike technician and this brings people in from all over the country. He does tend to bring customers in from all over the place."

It's clear talking to Gareth that his passion for bikes runs through his veins and this really is what sets The Bike Shop apart.

To find out more about The Bike Shop in Faversham visit www.thebikeshopfaversham.co.uk or telephone 01795 532365.

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Entrepreneur shows award-winning strength

THE latest Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce entrepreneur of the year says his success is due to having a bold approach to business despite the recession.

David Evans is joint managing director of Sunray, a leading manufacturer of high-specification steel doors, based in Ashford.



MAN OF STEEL: David Evans

He said: "Over the last three years the company has gone from strength to strength. We have doubled our turnover, increased our workforce from 21 to 42 and won business of the year award in Kent for two years running. We were then third in the national finals. We are now perceived as one of the market leaders. We have invested heavily in plant and people and the business is growing well."

"Customer focus is also important. We have to be flexible. We have the fastest lead times and are capable of changing and completing orders very quickly."

However, he is realistic about the difficult times ahead and how companies can be hit by things outside their control.

He said: "We had a detailed business plan and we have stuck to it. Our view is when we come out of this recession; we want to be in a fitter position. It is a bold attitude but we monitor things very closely."

The company has had to deal with a massive hike in steel prices which went up 38 per cent overnight. Mr Evans said: "That has a huge impact on us. We have to see whether we pass that on to our customers or whether we absorb it."

Mr Evans has sat on the Business Link Advisory Board, and is now a member of the chamber's economic development group.

Twigging on to business survival

AN independent landscaping and environmental company priding itself on flexibility and a "chameleon like" ability to go with the business flow has been recognised for its skills.



BEFORE: A typical project that Twig Trading would tackle

Lamberhurst-based Twig Trading was judged as winner of the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce Business Awards 2010.

The company's managing director David Eyre was also a runner-up in the awards' entrepreneur of the year category.

Twig's experts have a wide range of skills from garden design to tree surgery to bricklaying and always ensure they take an environmental approach to managing the land.

Following growth in the business since 2002, Mr Eyre said he now plans to take on four extra staff in the coming months.

The firm added four staff to its team of six last year to carry out the treeplanting work at Thanet Earth – a pioneering glasshouse fruit and vegetable growing project.

Mr Eyre said: "It is an amazing feeling to have won the business of the year accolade. I am very proud of the tireless hard work the team put in. These awards recognise our values and the importance we place on conservation when carrying out landscaping and countryside management projects."

Mr Eyre founded the company in 2002 and over the past year, the team planted 19,100 trees.

Twig has almost doubled in size year-on-year for the past three years. Mr Eyre employs 10 people and expects to take on four more staff in the coming months to carry out work on education projects.

The firm has been designing new grounds for Sissinghurst Primary School, including performance areas, outdoor classrooms, wildlife walks and vegetable plots.

Twig has also created a sensory garden at a school for children with additional needs in Gravesend, while in Berkshire it has been building a beach-themed play area. In Essex, the team is developing a wildlife and vegetable and flower growing area for a primary school.

An article on how to grow your own dinner was also a popular read in KOS Media's Tunbridge Wells newspaper.

Mr Eyre's wife Miranda has been instru-

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Kent's Business of the Year winner Twig Trading was established in 2002 and has doubled in size each year since 2006. **Nick Ames** spoke to the husband and wife team behind a company that offers expertise in landscape gardening and land management with strong environmental principles and discovered a company that is looking forward to the future



AFTER: This transformation is why the business is an award winner

mental in the growth of the business.

She said: "We started when my husband really saw a gap in the market. He comes from a farming background – he loves being outdoors.

"We saw that a lot of people were moving into the countryside from London – but basically hadn't really got a clue as to what to do with the land.

"I came up with the name Twig – I wanted it to be memorable and we both realise marketing is very important. Then there's networking. David is extremely good at that aspect of the business."

Twig was going along smoothly but then came the recession which hit so many concerns.

Mrs Eyre said: "Our domestic business dropped and although we already had a couple of commercial clients that is the area we thought we should expand into. We put the emphasis on the business side.

"Rather than just look at the situation around us and say we cannot do what we used to do, we knew we had to change and accept the reality of the economic situation.

"It was rather like being a chameleon – changing yourself to fit in with your surroundings. Adapting to the market and how it was changing was very important and we were able to do that."

The company was thrilled at the award.

"To be honest you never think you are going to win – you always think someone is doing what you are doing only better," said Mrs Eyre.

"But it seems we have been singled out for our ability and that is an immense source of pride to all of us at Twig."

Canterbury Cathedral Lodge was the venue for an awards ceremony and dinner.

A total of 130 people attended the event established in 2005 which has become one of the most prestigious business awards in the county.

The judging panel which made the difficult choices from a record number of entrants was made up from all aspects of the county's business community.

Twig has a team of 12 including Mr and Mrs Eyre and one of its secrets for moving forward is to ensure everyone works together – and knows they are appreciated.

Mrs Eyre said: "We really do have a great team and what I feel is so important is that we thank them.

"Not with huge sums of money – just saying thank you can be so important to keeping up feelings of team spirit and working together. It is something I feel has contributed in a great way to our success."

Tree of life



TWIG has branched out into midwifery for plants with the launch of a new campaign for mums-to-be.

The company is calling on family and friends to plant a tree for newborns and young ones in the Maternitree campaign which aims to raise awareness of the link between population and our environment.

"Cut back on the plastic and the throw-away toys you give your baby and plant a tree that lasts for life instead," said Twig's managing director, David Eyre.

"Mums and dads can plant a sapling tree in their garden, or in a pot and watch the tree grow with the baby. It's a great way of putting children – and their families – in touch with the rhythm of nature, tending to the young trees."





Why local is important

THESE days, when most people do the majority of their shopping in giant supermarkets, out of town shopping complexes or city centre malls, it can be difficult to draw attention to a small business trading locally.

But with concerns being raised over community cohesion, social inclusion and the environment, local business has never been more important.

It's down to enterprising business owners to promote the importance of supporting local businesses so that the public understand why it matters and how it can benefit whole communities.

And it is down to the shopper to consider their own actions and what happens to their towns and communities if they turn their back on the many independents.

Why do people shop with the big chains?

In order to tackle the trend toward supermarket shopping, it's important to understand why people choose it. Research indicates that the reasons they most frequently cite are the variety of products available and the convenience of having them all in one place.

Yet choice is so often better, and certainly wider ranging, from individual retailers.

So retailers need to get that message across.

Remind people how convenient it is to have a lot of small shops offering different products and services located in the area, and how convenient it is to be able to shop close to home.

It's OK to admit that big business has the edge in some areas if you stress that there's a cost to this. For instance, you could have a poster featuring a pint of milk which acknowledges that it's cheaper in the supermarket but points out how much less time is spent if it can be picked up nearby, so that it still pays to shop locally.





DRIVE A HARD BARGAIN: (Left) Servicing and car repairs are often best carried out by established, independent garages who do not carry main dealer overheads; and above, local produce bought locally is environmentally more sound

Why local produce is important

Businesses that purchase products locally, should remind customers that shopping with you means supporting local producers and cutting down on the environmental costs of long distance transport.

If you sell food, it also means getting fresher produce. And remind customers of the obvious thing: local businesses mean local jobs and increased opportunities for local people.

This in turn encourages the young to stay in the area and become positively involved with the community. It cuts out the daily commute for many people and makes their working lives more pleasant. The Federation of Small Businesses runs regular campaigns on these issues, thereby getting the support of a strong backer with good media expertise and funding.

Work together

It can be tough for a small business to make much of an impact on its own, but when you work together with others you can achieve much more. Organise local festivals to promote the diversity of businesses in the area.

This in itself is a reason for shopping there. Tourist guides will list shops that are unusual.

Look after the customers who already support you

A significant number of people prefer to do business locally precisely because they see supermarket promoters and big chains as unduly ruthless and unscrupulous. Make sure they know that your business is different and that people should support you not just because they don't like your rivals but because you have lots to offer to the local community.

Finally, don't forget to support local businesses yourself.

When any business needs a new product or service, look around to see if you can source it within your local area. This can make your life a lot easier, it can help to build business relationships where it really matters, and it gives you the opportunity to lead by example, showing people how it should be done.

• ***Thanks to www.localbusinessenterprise.co.uk for help preparing this article***.

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Nationwide vehicle search

AGILA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2008	58	Agila Club CDTi	1.3	5	Steel silver	10,450	7,995
2009	09	Agila Club A/c	1.2	5	Atlanta blue	6,350	7,995
2009	59	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Lemon grass	1,350	9,495
2009	59	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Moroccan blue	1,266	9,495
2009	59	Agila Club CDTi	1.3D	5	Steel silver	3,900	8,995
2009	59	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Moroccan blue	5,150	9,495
2010	59	Agila Design	1.2	5	Lemon grass	2,790	8,995

ASTRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2005	05*	Astra Sri Ex Pack	2.0	3	Black sapphire	22,250	7,995
2006	06	Astra Active	1.6	5	Ultra blue	37,000	6,750
2007	07	Astra Design Auto Estate	1.8	5	Silver lightening	22,190	7,495
2007	07	Astra Sri Sports hatch X pack	1.6 TBO	3	Flame red	29,810	9,995
2007	57	Astra VXR	2.0	3	Arden blue	25,000	13,995
2007	57	Astra Sxi Sports hatch CDTi	1.7D	3	Star silver	40,675	8,795
2008	08	Astra Design CDTi Auto	1.9D	5	Star silver	22,200	9,695
2008	08	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Silver lightening	24,300	9,695
2008	08	Astra Sri X Pack	1.8	5	Black sapphire	14,575	9,995
2008	58	Astra Breeze	1.4	5	Silver lightening	10,700	8,995
2009	58	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Panacotta	12,625	9,995
2009	09	Astra Club	1.4	5	Silver lightening	18,218	8,995
2009	09	Astra Sri CDTi X Pack	1.9D	5	Star silver	9,710	14,995
2009	09	Astra Active	1.4	5	Black sapphire	9,650	9,995
2009	09	Astra Breeze Plus CDTi	1.7D	5	Star silver	14,100	10,495
2009	59	Astra Sxi eco flex	1.7D	5	Sovereign silver	3,400	12,995
2009	59	Astra Sports Twin top	1.8	2	Air blue	3,320	16,995
2009	59	Astra Sxi CDTi	1.9D	5	Power red	8,000	13,495
2009	59	Astra Active	1.4	5	Power red	4,960	10,995
2009	59	New Astra Exclusiv CDTi	1.7D	5	Star silver	6,450	14,995
2009	59	Astra Active	1.4	5	Power red	3,990	10,995

CORSA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2004	04*	Corsa Design	1.2	5	Star silver	63,890	3,995
2006	56	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Flame red	38,450	7,495
2007	07	Corsa Design	1.2	3	Metro blue	20,655	7,195
2008	07	Corsa Club	1.2	5	Flame red	27,810	6,795
2007	57	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Star silver	37,900	7,995
2008	58	Corsa Active	1.2	3	Black sapphire	7,030	7,995
2009	09	Corsa Active	1.0	5	Star silver	6,270	8,475
2009	09	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.2	5	Metro blue	19,970	8,995
2009	59	Corsa Life CDTi	1.3D	5	Black sapphire	4,600	9,495
2009	59	Corsa Life CDTi	1.3D	5	Star silver	9,950	8,995
2009	59	Corsa Active CDTi	1.3D	5	Silver lightening	4,300	9,995
2009	59	Corsa Club CDTi	1.3D	3	Metro blue	6,480	9,695
2009	59	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.4	3	Silver lightening	800	10,495
2009	59	Corsa Sxi A/c X pack	1.4	3	Black sapphire	10,150	11,495
2009	59	Corsa Life CDTi	1.3D	5	Air blue	7,850	9,395
2009	59	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.4	5	Silver lightening	4,450	10,495
2009	59	Corsa Active	1.2	3	Star silver	7,180	9,395

INSIGNIA & SIGNUM

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2008	58	Insignia Sri	1.8	5	Black sapphire	12,625	12,995
2009	09	Insignia Tourer Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	9,300	13,995
2009	59	Insignia Elite CDTi Nav	2.0	5	Sovereign silver	6,550	21,995
2009	59	Insignia CDTi ECO Exclusive	2.0	5	Silver lake	7,350	16,995
2005	55	Signum Elite	2.2	5	Star silver	58,800	5,995

ANTARA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2008	57	Antara CDTi E Auto	2.0	5	Slate blue	18,100	12,995
2009	59	Antara Exclusive CDTi	2.0D	5	Placid grey		18,995

MERIVA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	06	Meriva Design E/T	1.6	5	Metro blue	33,225	6,495
2006	56	Meriva Life A/C	1.4	5	Steel blue	19,730	5,995
2009	09	Meriva Life A/c	1.4	5	Metro blue	8,320	8,995

VECTRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2007	07*	Vectra CDTi Exclusiv +	1.9D	5	Silver lightening	88,375	5,995
2008	58	Vectra Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	15,390	8,795

ZAFIRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2005	05*	Zafira Design CDTi Auto	2.0	5	Star silver	53,000	6,495
2008	57	Zafira Breeze	1.6	5	Star silver	12,630	8,495
2008	58	Zafira Exclusive	1.6	5	Star silver	13,700	9,995
2009	59	Zafira Active CDTi+	1.9D	5	Ultra blue	2,880	14,495
2009	59	Zafira Design CDTi	1.9	5	Panacotta	2,200	16,995
2009	59	Zafira Active Plus	1.8	5	Ultra blue	5,670	13,995

OTHERS

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2002	02*	MG ZR	1.4	3	Red	70,250	2,995
2005	05*	Ford Focus Auto LX	1.6	5	Blue	50,000	5,995
2005	55*	Peugeot 206 Zest	1.1	5	Metallic blue	41,170	4,495
2004	54*	Ford Focus Lx	1.6	5	Star silver	4,5780	4,995
2006	56*	Nissan SVE Note	1.6	5	Grey	25,225	5,995
2006	06*	Renault Kangoo DCi	1.6	5	Blue	25,000	7,495

COMMERCIALS

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2008	08	Corsavan Sportive	1.3D	3	Star silver	55,350	4,995
2009	59	Vivaro SWB CDTi	2.0D	5	White	Del	£11,295+VAT

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Good for the environment

Buying your fruit and vegetables locally brings a host of benefits: as well as being good for you and arguably tasting better, it actually reduces the cost of transport both in cash terms and environmentally. Chris Britcher met Jonathan Parker who set up foodforkent.co.uk, which delivers a huge selection of local produce, including fish, meat and poutry direct to your door

foodforkent.co.uk



SUMMER means changes. We go on holiday. We take more days out. We eat outside. We drink outside. We change our lifestyles.

Yet, so often, while we allow our lives to be altered, for reasons long since lost in the global marketplace, we have lost touch with what the seasons mean to our intake of food and drink.

Because due to supply chains established by the major supermarkets, you can eat strawberries all year round. Asparagus is available 365-days-a-year.

But our reliance on foods being flown in from all four corners of the world has repercussions.

Jonathan Parker runs FoodforKent.co.uk an online venture operated out of a farm in Aldington, near Ashford. Its mission is simple. To supply, wherever possible, locally sourced food and drink in one place.

So just why should the seasons dictate our eating habits?

"We should eat seasonally and local where possible because firstly produce should arrive with you fresher, better quality, and it shouldn't have had to travel so far," explains Mr Parker.

"It also means we connect with the seasons and eat produce when it's at its best. As well as obviously supporting the local economy and growers."

Certainly in these times of economic uncertainty, there has, in generations past, been a shift towards looking inwards – and investing in those businesses and ventures which are on our doorstep. Those which create the jobs, which plough the money back into the community. The very glue, which keeps the communities together in the first place.

So that's the local economy ticked. Need more persuading? Then what about the classic environmental issues?

Mr Parker said: "In a time where food on a worldwide basis is at a shortage and oil prices are spiralling and so on and so forth, to eat produce that is being grown just down the road has got to make sense. It also means we are reducing our imports in the most basic sense. And of course, finally and very importantly, we are reducing our carbon footprint through the food that we eat.

"The great thing for us in Kent is that we are blessed with not only some really fertile soil which grows diverse produce, from the very best potatoes to the best fruit, but also we have sea on three sides so we have some wonderful fish and some great meat too."

"When you ask most people if they like local produce and want to eat seasonally, then invariably they say yes," explains Mr Parker. "When you ask whether or not they do, they invariably say no. Because they go to the supermarket and they walk past a beautiful bread counter and buy their bread there. Then they see all these other fantastic products, and it's all very convenient.

"We aren't trying to compete with the supermarkets head-on because the supermarkets have grown to the size that they are, by doing a very good job.

"What we can offer is a real insight into good quality local food and a personal service and if our customers want to pick up the phone and call us and get a little bit of information about where their strawberries have come from or indeed where their meat was from, the provenance, we're all ears.

"It's a tough market, but where we are, people continue to need to eat, so if we offer a product which is cost effective, people will continue to buy it.

"In 20 years time when supermarkets own huge swaths of land and grow carrots at 25p per kilogramme that don't taste of anything and stuff not used gets put in the bin, I think people will be screaming out for a change."





SEASONAL TASTE: Asparagus and strawberries are something to look forward to fresh during summer months

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MOTORS NEWS



Mean load-lugger from Skoda most economical

SKODA claims to have produced its most eco-friendly model ever – the new £13,740 Fabia Greenline II Estate.

It averages around 80mpg and emits a road tax exempt 89g/km of CO2 – it's good for 932 miles on a single tank of fuel, says Skoda. It uses a new three-cylinder 75bhp turbocharged diesel engine and the Czech make has loaded the car with £800 of extra standard equipment, against the model it replaces, including cruise control, electronic stability programme, stop-start function and tyre pressure monitor.



Hyundai makes savings in green and blue hue

TWEAKS to the aerodynamics and engine have resulted in bigger fuel savings for Hyundai's i20 three/five-door supermini (from £9,520).

In addition to this green benefit though, the Korean marque also has some 'blue' news: the dashboard and instrument illumination is now blue in the style of VW rather than red and Bluetooth phone connectivity with voice recognition is now standard on all models except the entry-level Classic. All i20s come with air con and electronic stability control.



New Volvo's economy also offers great style

VOLVO is about to launch its most important car for ages – the all-new S60, available to order from £23,295 ahead of launch later this month.

Racy styling builds on the current car's sleek lines, without carrying over its handling deficiencies. Engines include an all-new five-cylinder 163bhp 2.0-litre D3 engine capable of a combined 54.3mpg, delivering economy combined with style, though the familiar Volvo twin-turbo D5 powerplant also sgive 0-62mph in 7.8 seconds yet averages more than 50mpg.



FLASH OF GENIUS: The Spark replaced Chevrolet's popular Matiz and has enhanced its appeal as an mini-MPV's by installing a trio of three-point seat belts across the back

Chevrolet's bright spark

CHEVROLET'S new Spark city car needed to be good for the money after following on from the popular Matiz.

But the latter bowed out to some stunning deals so, on the face of it, the newcomer (£6,945-9,845) was always bound to look dearer.

Closer inspection of the crisply-drawn high-roof five-door Spark though, with its fashionably concealed rear door handles, actually shows it to be better value than the old stager.

As the Spark's profile implies, it is a spacious small car and Chevy has enhanced its appeal as a mini-MPV by installing a trio of three-point seat belts across the back, although it would be tight for three adults.

The Spark is currently available with 68PS (67bhp) 1.0-litre or 82PS (81bhp) 1.2-litre petrol engines; I haven't been able to drive the former, but the latter endows the little car with decent acceleration and the ability to cope with motorway hauls.

Okay, it is not the quietest and most refined small hatchback, but it rides well and the relatively high body does not loll into the bends – no mean feat. Mid-range LS trim (from £8,445) is the most popular and brings remote central locking, interior upgrades, front fog lamps and a body-coloured rear spoiler.

And that seems logical after road testing the 'blinged up' LT flagship with electric windows all round, heated electric mirrors, roof bars, steering wheel audio controls, 15-inch alloys, climate control, exterior body kit and six-speaker stereo.

That takes the Spark to a less appealing £9,845 and a fairly ridiculous stance with those rails perched on a lofty roof.

And while the Spark cabin is quite eye-catching, with a retro display of gauges on top of the steering column, interior materials are a bit cheesy and actually look worse on the LT where some trays and bins are lined with a chrome finish likely to scratch badly with wear and tear – one of my regular observations on Chevrolets.

I also found the driver's seat uncomfortable; there is a shaped bolster at the back of the seats that I presume is designed to prevent you sliding around too much, but it just made my backside numb – maybe it was a problem with the test car.

ROAD TEST
CHEVROLET SPARK

BY **STEVE LOADER**

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★☆
Image	★★★☆☆
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★☆
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★☆
Green rating	★★★★☆



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09 FORD FOCUS C-MAX ZETEC 145 MPV AUTO, BLUE, 2000 MILES..... £11,995
10 FORD FUSION TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1400 MILES..... £11,995
09 SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 MILES..... £10,495
09 NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1800 MILES..... £10,495
09 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO, BEIGEBUFF, 2000 MILES..... £10,495
09 NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, BLUE, 2000 MILES..... £9,995
09 DAIHATSU MATERIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, MAROON, 1900 MILES..... £9,995
09 VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 MILES..... £9,495
09 KIA PICANTO 2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ORANGE, 2000 MILES..... £7,995
09 PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 5DR HATCH AUTO, YELLOW, 1500 MILES..... £7,995
09 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 5000 MILES..... £6,495

CONVERTIBLES CABRIOLETS

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07 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 5000 MILES..... £10,995
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06 NISSAN MICRA CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 12000 MILES..... £9,995
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FIESTA

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RENAULT

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06 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 MILES..... £8,995
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07 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 15000 MILES..... £7,995
05 RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT COUPE CABRIOLET CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 38000 MILES..... £7,495
06 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT MPV AUTO, GOLD, 21000 MILES..... £6,995
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08 CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 MILES..... £6,995
09 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 5000 MILES..... £6,495
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07 CHEVROLET KALOS SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 20000 MILES..... £5,495
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07 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 14000 MILES..... £4,995
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07 HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 MILES..... £5,995
08 HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 24000 MILES..... £5,995
07 HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, YELLOW, 9000 MILES..... £5,995
06 HYUNDAI GETZ CDX 5DR HATCH, SEASIDE BLUE, 40000 MILES..... £4,995
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08 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 MILES..... £8,495
08 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 MILES..... £7,995
07 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 MILES..... £7,995
07 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 15000 MILES..... £7,495
06 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 13000 MILES..... £7,495
06 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 13000 MILES..... £7,495
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07 MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 MILES..... £10,995
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04 54 CITROEN C8 SX HDi TURBO DIESEL, 7 seats, Air con, 2 x electric sliding doors, Metallic red £4,795
05 05 CITROEN C3 1.6 SX HDi TURBO DIESEL,5 door, Air con, 1 owner, Metallic blue £4,695
06 56 CITROEN C5 VTR HDi TURBO DIESEL ESTATE, Air con, Alloy wheels, 1 owner, Silver £4,495
01 51 CITROEN SAXO 1.1 DESIRE, 5 door, pas, silver £1,995
02 02 CITROEN XSARA 1.6 VTR COUPE, metalic red, air con £1,795

ROVER

02 52 MG ZS PLUS 1.8, 5dr, a/c, alloy whells, metalic grey £2,295

VW

07 57 VW POLO 1.4S TDi TURBO DIESEL, 5 door, Air con, Alloy wheels, 32,000 mls £7,995

DAEWOO

02 02 DAEWOO MATIZ EZPLUS alloy wheels, e/w CD player, 2 lady owners, 32,000 miles, silver £1,995

CHEVROLET

05 55 CHEVROLET TACUMA 1.6 SX, Silver, a/c, 35,000 mls £3,295

MITSUBISHI

06 56 MITSUBISHI COLT 1.0 CZ1, a/c, Black, 1 owner,9,000 mls £4,995

MAZDA

04 53 MAZDA 2 TS2 DIESEL, 5 door, air con, electric windows, electric mirrors, alloy wheels, metalic grey £3,995

CHRYSLER

04 04 CHRYSLER VOYAGER 2.4 TOURING, 7 seater, Silver, a/c, alloy wheels. £5,295

LAND ROVER

01 X LAND ROVER, FREELAND 2.5, ES, AUTO, metalic red air con, alloy wheels, leather seats £3,695

CARS TO CLEAR

01 X MERCEDES E240 ESTATE ELEGANCE AUTO, Silver £2,295
00 W ROVER 75 CLUB SE AUTO £1,495
98 S TOYOTA CORROLLA, 5 door £1,295
01 X NISSAN MICRA 1.0, pas £1,195
03 53 FORD KA 1.3, Blue £1,195
00 W RENAULT CLIO 1.2 GRANDE 5 dr £995
98 S FORD MONDEO1.8 LX £795
95 N ROVER 214si, 5 door £495
96 P VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 ..... £495

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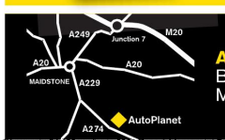
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2004 Peugot 607 HDi Diesel, manual, alloys, CD, silver, 2.0, luxury and economy at £4495



2002 MG ZS 5 door hatchback, 2.5 V6, red/black half leather trim, CD, Alloys etc, etc £2495

2001 BMW 320CI (individual) 62k, very rare, auto/manual £5,995
2004 MERCEDES E CLASS CDi avantgarde, black, auto/man, 46k fsh, half leather trim £11,995
1999 VW GOLF 2.3 V5 AUTO, rarely available, immaculate £2,995
1998 BMW Z3 2.8, manual, elec roof, alloys £4,995
2003 MINI COOPER CHILLI PACK, 3dr hatch, manual, 55k, alloys £6,195
2006 VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.2 3dr, Met blue, 40k Manual £5,195
2002 VAUXHALL VECTRA 3.2 V6 AUTOMATIC, 5dr, blue, 60k £3,495
1999 GOLF 2.3 V5 AUTO - rarely available, 5dr, red, immaculate £2,995
2000 BMW 523i 4dr saloon, auto, dark met green, all usual refinements, fsh, great condition £2,995
2003 MG ZS DIESEL, yellow, 5 door hatchback, manual, CD radio, immaculate £2,495
2003 MG ZS 2.5 V6, 5dr, 59k, red, alloys £2,495
2001 VAUXHALL CORSA 1200 CLUB AUTOMATIC, 3dr, Silver, 45k £2,495
2003 CITROEN SAXO 1.1 DESIRE, 3dr hatch, silver, ... £2,195
2004 PEUGOT 607 HDi saloon. Silver, manual, alloys, luxury and economy £4,495
2003 CITROEN C3 1.4 5 door, black £3,495
2001 ALFA ROMEO 2.0 LUSSO, 4dr saloon, silver, leather, autocluch, 67k, all electrics £1,995
2001 RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 AUTO, silver £1,995

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1997 VW GOLF 1.8 CABRIOLET met green, black hood, only 72k, from new £2,595
1998 BMW Z3 2.8 manual, blue with black elec roof, alloys, wide wheel arch model £4,995

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1999 PEUGEOT 406, 4dr saloon, 66k, fsh, silver, manual £1,995
2000 PEUGEOT 106 GTi 1600, 3dr hatch, red, alloys, a really quick and eye-catching example £1,995
1999 VW GOLF 1.6 SE newshape, 5dr hatch, light green, 68k £1,995
1997 FORD SCORPIO ULTIMA, auto, 4 door luxury saloon, green, E/S/R, alloys, immaculate for year, 37k £1,795
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2009 09 KIA Soul 1.6 CDRi Shaker, Diesel £12,000



2007 07 Vauxhall Astra 1.9 CDTi. £11,500



2009 09 Vauxhall Vectra 2.8 T V6, £11,000



2007 57 Jaguar X type 2.5 SE £11,000



2009 09 Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec, £10,500



2009 59 Ford Ka 1.2 Zetec. £8,500



2009 58 Suzuki Jimny 1.3 VVT JLX £8,500



2003 03 Jaguar XJ6 3.0 V6, Auto. £8,000



2005 54 Mercedes-Benz C180K SE. £8,000



2007 57 Swift 1.3 DDiS £8,000



2008 08 Swift 1.5 GLX £8,000



2003 53 Chrysler Grand Voyager 3.3. £7,700



2008 08 Swift 1.5 GLX: 5Door. A/C. £7,500



2006 56 Swift 1.6 VVT Sport, £7,500



2007 57 Skoda Roomster 1.4 TDI, Diesel £7500



2007 07 Citroen Picasso 1.6, Diesel. £7500



2004 54 Chrysler Voyager 2.5 CRD SE. £7,300



2007 56 Swift 1.5 GLX £7250



2008 58 Dodge Avenger 2.0 £7,250



2007 07 Swift 1.5 GLX: 5door, £7000



2008 58 Kia Rio 1.6 Sport, £7000



2007 57 Kia Magentis 2.7 V6 LS Tip: £7000



2006 55 Coupe 2.0 SE Leather, £7,000



2005 55 Sonata 2.4 CDX: £6,800



2008 58 Chevrolet Aveo 1.4 LT. £6,700



2004 04 Mini Cooper 1.6. £6,500



Kia Rio 1.5 CRDi LS: Diesel, £6,500



2006 56 Ford Fusion 1.6 Zetec £6,500



2007 07 Citroen C4 1.6i 16v SX: £6,500



2005 55 Vauxhall Astra 1.8 16v. £6,250



2005 54 Toyota Corolla 1.6 VVT-i : £6,250



2008 08 Mitsubishi Colt 1.3 £6,250



2009 58 Citroen C1 1.0i VTR £6200



2005 55 Toyota Corolla 1.6 VVT-i T2 £6,000



2007 57 Liana 1.6 GLX 5 door £6,000



2009 09 Kia Picanto 1.0 £6,000



2007 07 Getz 1.1 GSI £6,000



2007 07 Seat Ibiza 1.9 TDi £6400



2008 08 Daihatsu Sirion 1.0 S £5,800

2007 07 Chevrolet Kalos 1.4 SX £5,800

2008 08 Chevrolet Kalos 1.4 SX £5,800

2006 06 Suzuki Ignis 1.5GL Auto £5,500

2007 07 Peugeot 107 1.0 Urban £5,250

2007 07 Wagon R 1.2 GL A/C £5,000

2004 54 Liana 1.6 GLX 5 Door £5,000

2005 54 MG TF 135 Spark Convertible £5,000

2004 54 Mazda '3' 1.6 TS A/C £5,000

2006 56 Matrix 1.6 GSi A/C £5,000

2006 06 Wagon R 1.2 GL A/C £4,500

2006 55 Suzuki Ignis 1.5 GLX A/C £4,500

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57 MERCEDES - BENZ GL CLASS 320 CDi 4 MATIC ,18,000 mls, Sat Nav, Electric pack, Silver, Full leather trim, privacy glass, fully loaded. Available for....£34,995
05 BMW 530 DIESEL SPORT. Automatic M'Tec Design, Sat Nav, silver with full black leather trim, voice command, FSH. Available for....£12,995
56 AUDI A4 2.0 TDi (170) SPORTSLINE, Metallic Grey with sports trim, Bose Audio Syatem, Multi-function steering wheel, Service history....£11,995
54 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTi (150 BHP) SRi, Silver with grey velour trim, Aircon, 6 speed, CD player, Alloys, well maintained....£4,995
54 SAAB 93 1.9 TD VECTOR , Metallic blue with two tone tan leather trim, 6 speed, multifunction steering wheel, CD player. A well maintained car....£4,495

SUMMERTIME

53 MERCEDES BENZ SL 350 (3.7) AUTOMATIC, Silver with unmarked leather trim, AMG Alloys, Sat Nav, Electric pack, Power fold hood. A stunning car available for....£19,995
55 (06) VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE 1.6 LUNA CONVERTABLE, 22,000 mls, Silver with black power hood, New upgraded 18" Alloys, Electric pack. A stunning car....£9,495
05 FORD 1.6i STREET KA LUXURY, 55,000 mls, Sports blue with black leather trim, Service history, Alloys, Electric pack, Clean....£4,995
52 VOLVO C70 2.0 T CONVERTABLE, Metallic blue with full leather trim, Power black hood, Elec windows, Elec mirrors, ABS, CD player, Alloys....£4,995
02 SAAB 9.3 2.0 TURBO SE, 63,000 mls, Service history, Silver with blue power hood, Full black leather trim, Air con, boot spoiler....£4,995
R BMW 23 1.8 , Bright red with full black leather trim, black hood, Schitzer Deep rim wheels, CD player, Service History....£3,995

AUTOMATICS

55 MERCEDES - BENZ C CLASS C200 KOMPRESSOR 3 DOOR AUTOMATIC WITH PANORAMIC ROOF (Full length), Metallic Grey, ESP Climate control....£9,495
57 CADILLAC CTS SPORT LUXURY AUTOMATIC, 17,000 mls, Sat nav with in car entertainment. Silver with full unmarked leather trim, every extra. Still under manufacturers warranty....£6,995
04 MERCEDES C180 KOMPRESSOR COUPE, every extra. Sat nev, Full panoramic roof, Leather, Electric pack, 74,000 mls, S/history, Metallic blue - Due in shortly....£6,995
02 MERCEDES - BENZ C CLASS C240 AUTOMATIC, 50,000 mls, Dark metallic blue with full leather trim, Upgraded alloys, Multi-function steering wheel, Well maintained....£5,995
03 JAGUAR S-TYPE 4.2V8 AUTOMATIC WITH TOUCH SCREEN SAT NAV, Ice pearl blue, Full leather trim, Upgraded alloys....£4,995
02 MERCEDES - BENZ C CLASS C180 AVANTGARDE AUTOMATIC, Silver with full unmarked leather, Upgraded alloys, Multi-function steering wheel. A clean car....£4,695
02 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC AUTOMATIC, Full leather trim, Metallic red, 65,000 mls, Air con, Alloys. Very clean....£3,295
X VOLVO C70 COUPE 2.5T AUTOMATIC, Black with full two- tone leather trim, Service history. A very desirable car....£2,995
Y ROVER 75 2.5V6 CONNOISSEUR AUTOMATIC, Metallic red with black leather trim with white piping, 54,000 mls . A clean and reliable car....£2,495
V RENAULT CLIO 16RN AUTOMATIC, Ice silver with grey trim, 61,000 mls, 1 years MoT....£1,295

MPV

53 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.0 GSi TURBO, 61,000 mls, Jet black with half leather sports trim, incar entertainment. Well maintained. Lots of service bills. Very clean....£5,995
03 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 DESIGN, 7 seater, Silver with grey trim, 75,000 mls, air con, C/L. Very clean....£3,695
02 RENAULT ESPACE 2.0 AUTHENTIQUE, 7 seater, 50,000 mls, Silver with grey trim, Climate control, Electric pack....£3,495

4x4

54 LAND ROVER FREELANDER 1.8 XEi (New model), Metallic grey with half leather trim, air con, Electric pack, Downhill decent, Service history....£4,995

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05 AUDI A4 1.8T SPORTSLINE,71,000 mls, Ice metallic blue with grey 'Sportsline' trim, CD Multi-changer (New mdl), Service history....£9,995
04 BMW 520 SE (New shape), Metallic black with full tan leather trim, Manual, 6 speed, Fully loaded, lovely service history. A lovely car....£7,995
55 FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX – New mdl, 5 door, Metallic blue with grey trim, A/C, ABS, E/W, C/L. A very clean car inside and out....£4,695
04 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 GTi (180 bhp), 56,000 mls, 3 door model, black with sports leather trim, Climate control. Very clean....£4,695
03 BMW 318i, Metallic blue with grey trim, rear parking aids, pgraded alloys, P/S, C/L, ABS, E/W, E/M. Well maintained....£4,495
52 ROVER 75 1.8 SE, Full service history, Ice baby blue with grey trim, 48,000 mls. Very clean....£2,995
53 ROVER 45 1.4 5 door, 29,000 mls, Metallic red with grey velour trim, Parking aids, Alloys, Air con, Elec winds, Elec mirrors, ABS, Service history....£2,695
02 ROVER 75 1.8 SALOON, Metallic blue with grey velour trim, Air con, Central lock, ABS, Alloys. Clean for year....£2,495
52 ROVER 25 1.8 XS 16V, 5 door, Dark metallic grey with velour trim, air con, P/S, ABS, E/W, E/M, Alloys,. Very clean car....£1,695
04 FORD FOCUS 1.6 GHIA, 5 door, Metallic black with grey velour trim, Upgraded alloys, CD player, air con, C/L, P/S, E/W, ABS, Very clean....£3,495

LOW INSURANCE

05 ASTRA 1.4 BREEZE (New shape), 5 door, grey metallic with contrasting trim. Very clean inside and out. Drives really well. Low insurance....£3,995
04 RENAULT CLIO 1.4 DYNAMIQUE, 43,000 mls, Pearl blue with grey trim, Alloys, P/S, C/L,. Low road tax....£2,995
04 HYUNDAI 1.1 GETZ GSi, 3 door, 43,000 mls, Silver with grey trim. LOW INSURANCE- LOW ROAD TAX....£2,695
54 FIAT PUNTO ACTIVE SPORT, 3 door, 68,000 mls, silver with blue flec trim, Alloys, P/S, CD player. Ideal 1st car....£2,695

CHEVROLET CAMARO LHD

P CHEVROLET CAMARO 3.8 V6 2 DOOR AUTO 30TH ANNIVERSARY, 74,000 mls, Metallic green with yellow Viper stripes on bonnet, roof and tailgate. Detachable glass roof. LHD. Imprinted seats. Well maintained. A very clean car for year – ROCK 'n' ROLL....£3,995

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02 MG ZR 1.8 (120 bhp), 3 door, one owner, 57,000 mls, sports blue. Clean trim, Alloys, P/S, body kit. A clean car £1,995
X FORD ESCORT 1.6 FINESSE, Silver, 5 door, Grey trim, P/S, C/L, E/W, Low miles. £1,995
53 CHRYSLER 2.0 NEON LX AUTOMATIC, silver, Full leather trim, A/C, Alloys, CD Player. £1,995
02 VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.2 SRi (150), 5 DOOR, Silver with grey sports trim, FSH. a clean car. £1,995
S SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0 SPORT 4WD SWITCHABLE ESTATE, Metallic green with sports trim, Alloys, P/S, E/W, S/History £1,995
W PEUGEOT 306 (14) 5 DOOR LX, Metallic red with grey trim, P/S, C/L, Low insurance. £1,995
V SUBARU LEGACY 2.5 GX AUTOMATIC SALOON, Metallic red with black leather trim, climate control, Fully loaded, S/history0 ..... £1,995
X FORD MONDEO ZETEC, 5 door, Silver with grey trim, P/S, C/L, ABS, Alloys, CD player, air con £1,495
W ROVER 45 1.6, 5 door, Ice metallic blue with grey velour trim, C/L, P/S, E/W. Very clean £1,495
V CITROEN SAXO 1.6 VTR, Black with grey trim, P/S, 3 door mdl, E/W, C/L £1,295
Y ROVER 45 1.4, Metallic red with velour trim, P/S, E/W, C/L. Clean and reliable. £1,295
V FORD FIESTA 12.5 ZETEC, 3 door, Metallic red with grey trim, 1 years MoT, P/S, C/L, Alloys £1,295
Y VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 16V SXi, 5 door, Black ,(New mdl), Alloys, P/S, C/L. Clean reliable car. Above average mls hence only £1,295

UNDER £1000!

V FORD KA 1.3i, 71,000 mls, Magenta red with grey trim, P/S, 1 years MoT. Ideal 1st car. £1,295
T VW PASSAT 1.8 ESTATE, Blue with grey trim, P/S, C/L, E/W, Long MoT til May 2010 ..... £995
N LANDROVER DISCOVERY 3.9 V8 XS, Petrol, clean, drives well. Automatic, 5 door. Worth a look £995
T MAZDA 323F SE, 5door, Silver with grey trim, P/S, E/W, C/L. Alloys, E/M. Clean for year £995
P RENAULT LAGUNA 2.0 SPORT, Metallic blue with grey trim, Alloys, boot spoiler, S/R. 1 years MoT £895

TWIST AND GO

56 PIAGGO FLY 100 TWIST AND GO SCOOTER 100cc. Will come with 1 years MoT,4,000 mls. £1,295

COMMERCIAL SALES

07 MITSUBISHI L200 D1-D ANIMAL DOUBLE CAB PICK-UP AUTOMATIC, 47,000 mls, Side steps, rear double chrome roll bar, Two tone leather, Traffic Master. ..... £11,995 + vat
57 FORD TRANSIT T280 85ps S/W/B LOW ROOF NEW SHAPE, 44,000 mls, 1 owner, Plylined bulkhead, Dual passenger seat, colour coded. Very clean ..... £7,995 + vat
06 MITSUBISHI L200 Di – D WARRIOR PICK-UP TRUCK (NEW SHAPE), Crew cab, Black, Alloys, P/S, E/W, ABS, E/M, Air con. Very clean – a stunning truck ..... £7,495 + vat
04 FORD TRANSIT T350 UNDERARM TIPPER DIRECT FROM BT, Low mileage, White cab with new blue body with cage bulk. Immaculate ..... £6,995 + vat
55 MITSUBISHI L200 DOUBLE CAB ANIMAL PICK - UP, Black with two tone leather trim, Air con, P/S, C/L, 5 speed, E/M, CD player, Side steps, Rear chrome step and roll bar, Alloys ..... £6,995 + vat
08 VOLKSWAGEN CADDY 1.9 TDi C20, 1 owner, Green, Fully colour coded, New 18" Alloys, Plylined mesh bulkhead, S/H, CD player, Remote central locking ..... £6,495 + vat
56 VOLKSWAGEN CADDY 2.0 SDi, White, 65,000 mls, 18" Alloys, Fully colour coded, Recent service includes cambelt, Unsignwritten, Ready for work ..... £4,995 + vat
07 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 CDTi - CHOICE OF TWO - White with grey trim, Plylined, Direct from major PLC Company, Well maintained, Remote C/L, P/S. Very clean £4,995 + vat ..... and £4,695 + vat
07 VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDTi, 47,000 mls, White with grey trim, Wrap round bulkhead, side loading door, Plylined, Remote C/L. Clean ..... £4,295 + vat
07 PEUGEOT PARTNER 800 LX 1.6 HDi (75) , 33,000 mls, White, Plylined bulkhead, P/S, E/W, C/L,E/M,1 owner. Well maintained ..... £3,995 + vat
T VAUHALL COMBO 1.7 DIESEL MERIT - READY FOR WORK - White, Unsignwritten cheap van ..... £995 NO VAT

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CAR TRANSPORTER 55 IVECO EURO CARGO 75E17 DOUBLE DECK CAR TRANSPORTER- ROGER DYSON. Double deck body, 61,000 mls, FSH, Fully refurbed body,E/M, Bumper stops, CD player, Alloy ramps X9, Superwinch, Cruise control, E/W. VERY, VERY CLEAN ..... £19,995 + vat

★★★ CAR OF THE WEEK ★★★

53 MINI COOPER 1.6, 60,000 mls, Bright red with white roof, mirror pods and bonnet stripes. Cooper alloys, privacy glass, full climate control, electric pack. A really pretty car £5,995





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2007 07 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 S 5dr,1 Owner,S/History,A/C,22k
£6,495



2007 07 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S 5dr,1 Owner,S/History,A/C,Alloys,11k
£6,895



2007 07 TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 VVT-i T3 5dr, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 27k
£6,995



2007 07 FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX 5dr,1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 28k
£6,695



2006 56 CITROEN C2 1.6 VTS 125bhp ,3dr, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 13k
£5,995



2007 07 NISSAN MICRA 1.2 Sprinta 3dr, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 13k
£5,695



2008 08 FORD FIESTA 1.25 Style Climate 3dr, 2 Owners, S/History, A/C, 24k
£5,995



2007 07 CITROEN C1 1.0 RHYTHM 5dr, 1 Owners, S/History, Only £20 Road Tax, 29k
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GRAVESEND

2007 07 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 Acenta,Caffe Latte,5dr,1 Owner,S/History,A/C,Alloys,30k.....£10,195

2007 07 FORD FOCUS 1.6 TURBO DIESEL Sport Estate, Ocean Blue, 1 Owner, A/C, Alloys, 39k...£7,795

2007 07 HONDA JAZZ 1.4 SE,Ice Blue,5dr,1 Owner,S/History,A/C,Alloys,21k.....£7,695

2007 07 CITROEN PICASSO 1.6 HDI VTX,Blue,5dr,1 Owner,S/History,A/C,Alloys,29k.....£7,295

2007 07 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S, Grey, 5dr, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloy, 11k.....£6,895

2007 07 NISSAN NOTE 1.6 SE, Silver, 5dr, 1 Owner, A/C, Alloys, 25k.....£6,495

2007 56 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 Life 7 Seater, Grey, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 28k.....£6,995

2007 07 TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 VVT-i T3, Silver, 5dr, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 27k.....£6,995

2007 07 FORD FOCUS 1.6 Sport AUTO, Tonic Blue, 1 Owner, A/C, Alloys, 28k.....£6,995

2007 07 FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX, Ocean Blue, 5dr, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 33k.....£6,95

2006 56 TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 T-Spirit, Silver, 3dr, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, Alloys, 19k.....£6,695

2007 07 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 S, Slate, 5dr, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, 22k.....£6,495

2006 56 CITROEN C2 1.6 VTS 125bhp, Black, 3dr, 1 Owners, S/History, A/C, 13k.....£5,995

2008 08 FORD FIESTA 1.25 Style Climate, Black, 3dr, 2 Owners, S/History, A/C, 23k.....£5,995

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PROPERTY NEWS

Developer is reassured by improving market

HOUSEBUILDER Bovis Homes has announced "solid" half-year figures and said it is to resume its dividend at the end of the current financial year.

In January last year, the group said it would not pay a dividend as the housing market downturn hit the company hard, forcing it to slash headcount.

The company said at the end of 2008 it was experiencing the worst trading environment "for many years".

However, the improvement in the housing market has meant the company has now completed 803 homes in the first half of 2010 – up six per cent period a year ago. It added the average selling price of private homes rose to £163,500 from £160,400.

In a statement, the company said: "Given the confidence the board has in the medium-term prospects of the group arising from its investment in new land opportunities and the group's strong net cash position, the board intends to resume dividends at the end of the current financial year.

"The new homes market remains subdued with ongoing liquidity issues in the first-time buyer market limiting the number of transactions," it added.

However, like other housebuilders, it warned of the ongoing problems first-time buyers face in obtaining a mortgage without a hefty deposit.

Protect your interest rate, urges the expert

AN independent mortgage expert has launched a new product designed to protect consumers from unexpected interest rate hikes.

The Interest Rate Protector is described by creators John Charcol as "interest rate protection without the expense of a fixed rate".

It will cap a borrower's interest rate at a level of their choosing and for a period of time that they determine, allowing customers complete choice of how to repay their mortgage.

"With many borrowers currently enjoying the benefits of an ultra low interest rate environment, those on a variable rate risk some tough times ahead when rates, as they simply have to at some stage, rise," said John Charcol's Ray Boulger.

The traditional way to combat this is to switch to a fixed rate deal, but Mr Boulger insists the Interest Rate Protector provides a cheaper alternative.



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INNOVATIVE: The development has been named Peto Close, in honour of the engineer who put Folkestone on the railway map, giving the town vital links to London

Inspirational name is given to new homes

A NEW development of 37 homes in Folkestone has been named in honour of the famous Victorian engineer who helped put the town on the map.

BY **NICK AMES**

Peto Close has been named after Sir Samuel Morton Peto, who built the London, Chatham and Dover Railway which reached Folkestone in 1843, cementing the town's role as a major cross-channel port.

The £4.7 million development by Town and Country Housing Group is on land off Eastfields, Folkestone, near to the landmark Foord Viaduct which carries the railway line that Peto built across the valley.

The homes range from one bedroom flats to three bedroom houses and will help to meet the huge demand for affordable housing in the Shepway District Council area.

Town and Country's acting development director Colin Lissenden said: "Sir Samuel was one of the Victorian era's most respected engineers and we are delighted the homes are named after him.

"He was a skilful innovator and we would like to think that he would have taken a great interest in the modern methods of construction with which these homes have been built by local contractors Jenner."

The homes meet required standards for energy efficiency, quality of construction and also security.

Residents Brian and Caroline Walters, who moved into Peto Close with their children Robyn, Stuart and Curt, were full of praise for their new home.

"It's very spacious and has lots of storage space," said Caroline. "The bills are a lot cheaper. It's lovely."

The homes were let through Kent Homechoice, the system which allows eligible people to 'bid' on the homes they would like to live in.

"They attracted an unprecedented level of interest when they were advertised.

Shepway District Council's, cabinet member for housing, Cllr Keren Belcourt, officially opened the new homes.

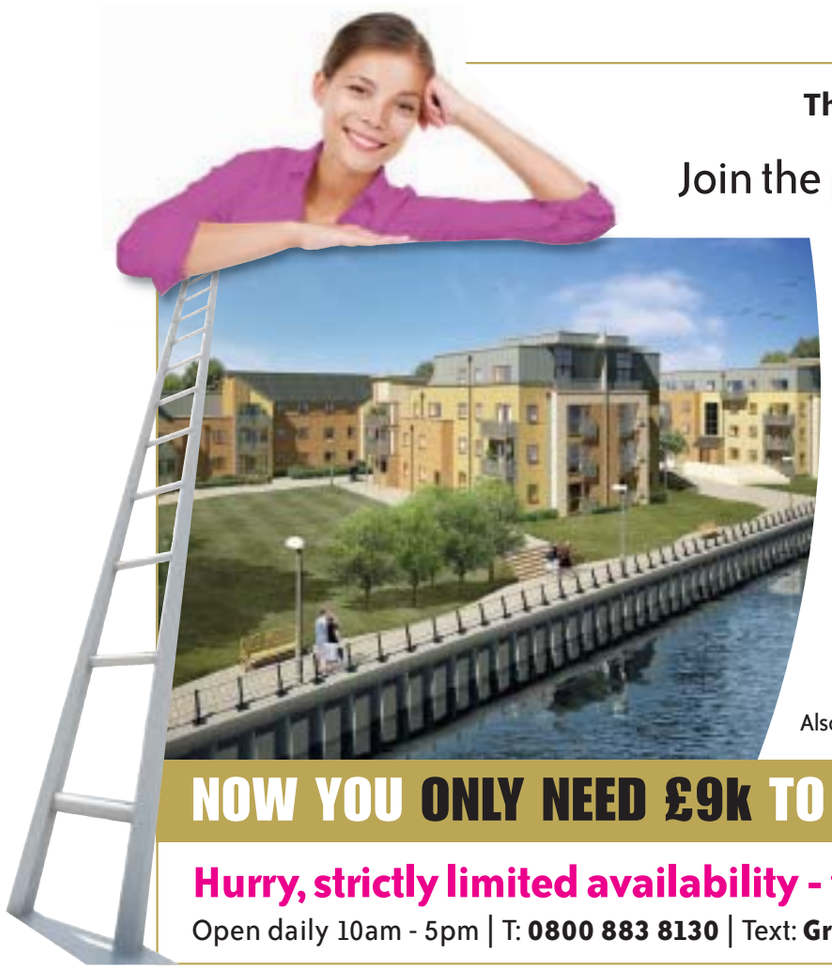
She said: "The council is making good progress in meeting the need for additional affordable homes in Shepway.

"Over the next year we will be working hard to provide affordable homes in other high need areas of the district, including more homes provided in partnership with Town and Country."

Akin Durowoju, head of area at the Homes and Communities Agency which gave a grant of £2.1m towards the project, said: "I'm delighted we've been able to support this sustainable and affordable development right in the heart of Folkestone.

"The Town and Country Housing project in Peto Close is great news for the area, and we will continue to support local communities in creating new and affordable places for people to live and work."

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Lecturer in Electrical Installation — Ref: P0357

Salary: £28,463 - £32,251 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience) Medway

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic individual to deliver Electrical Installation to learners studying from level 1 to level 3. The successful candidate will contribute to the development, delivery and teaching of Electrical Installation programmes. The ideal candidate must have a current knowledge and practical experience of the Building Services Industry, have sufficient teaching experience and educated to Level 3 or the equivalent in the relevant field. The successful candidate must have; an Advanced Craft Certificate, including Inspection and testing of Installations and possess either a D32/34 or A & V Awards and hold a recognised teaching qualification or be willing to work towards one. Good IT skills and the ability to work within a team are essential.

Lecturer in Foundation Programmes — Ref: P0121

Salary: £24,096 - £28,963 pro rata (dependant on qualifications and experience) 30 hours per week Medway

The College is looking to recruit an outstanding individual to participate in the delivery of Foundation Programmes across the College. The role will involve working with Learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and ensuring that learners develop and achieve the skills they need to progress. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Additional Learning Support Tutor/Assessor — Ref: P0378

Salary: £24,792 - £28,311 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience)
Hourly paid roles also available Maidstone/Medway

We are looking to recruit an exceptional candidate to assist with learning support for students with additional learning support needs. The ideal candidate will be able to demonstrate experience in and knowledge of tutoring, assessing and supporting learners with difficulties and disabilities. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised assessing certificate.

Personal Tutor — Ref: P0499

Salary: £20,674 - £23,212 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience) Maidstone

As a Personal Tutor you will plan and deliver a full range of group tutorials to learners with a wide range of abilities. You will also be responsible for a range of supportive activities including one-to-one tutorials. You will be able to work with minimum supervision and have experience of working in a coaching, mentoring or teaching capacity and be willing to undertake an appropriate teaching qualification.

Front Line Events Co-ordinator — Ref: M0450

Maternity Cover – fixed term contract Salary: £16,005 - £19,127 per annum Medway

The successful candidate will arrange, develop and deliver activities to facilitate student learning through training and experience at events. You will efficiently organise frontline events, including liaison with event organisers and Lecturers, supporting the College in the effective running of the frontline programme. Excellent communication skills and a recognised customer service qualification are essential as well as, experience of driving a minibus and holding a full, clean driving license with Class D entitlement or a current PCV license.

Technician in Hair and Beauty — Ref: P0277

Salary: £15,453 - £17,243 per annum Medway

We are looking for an organised candidate to assist the smooth running of the Hair and Beauty department. Responsibilities will include providing technical support to staff and students and setting-up the classrooms as required. Experience in the industry would be advantageous.

Information and Guidance Triage — Ref: P0131

Salary: £15,453 - £17,243 per annum Medway

We are looking to recruit a candidate to assist with the smooth running of the Information, Advice and Guidance department. The ideal candidate will have experience of working within a busy environment and will have excellent organisational skills. Duties will include providing a general enquiry service as part of the front of house team.

Hourly Paid Facilitators — Ref: SE560

Hourly Rate: £8.96 - £11.26 (dependent on qualifications and experience) Medway

We are looking to recruit sessional facilitators to join our successful CAST Team, working with students who have learning difficulties/disabilities. The ideal candidates will have experience of working with young people and are able to offer hours to suit the College timetables.

CLOSING DATE: Friday 16 July 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from **www.midkent.ac.uk**. Alternatively, please e-mail **job.applications@midkent.ac.uk**. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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Full job description and application form available on our website at www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk. Application by fully completed application form with supporting letter to Mrs S Chisholm at the school (tel: 0844 477 2525) or email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk.

The successful applicant will be subject to a full CRB check.

Closing date for applications: 12 July 2010

Rainham School for Girls
(A Specialist Technology College & Training School)
Derwent Way, Rainham, GILLINGHAM Kent ME8 0BX

(NOR 1570)

Head Teacher: Mrs J Dunn

Science Teacher required for September 2010
Applications welcome from experienced teachers and NQTs

Rainham School for Girls is a popular and successful non-selective 11-19 school offering excellent opportunities for enthusiastic and ambitious applicants to contribute to its continuing development. The school has Investors in People status.

Any offer of employment for this post will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Application forms and further details are available from Mrs D Francis, HR Manager at the School.
Tel. 01634 362746, Fax: 01634 388334. email: dfrancis@rsg.org.uk

Closing date: Monday, 19th July 2010

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Interested? Want to find out more? Have a look at our website www.avantepartnership.org.uk. For an informal conversation, please contact **Cedric Frederick, Avante Partnership's Chief Executive** on **01795 597400**

Heard enough? Please send Cedric your CV and a covering letter setting out why you'd like to join our Board to **cfrederick@avantepartnership.org.uk** or marked *'Private and Confidential'* to **Avante Partnership, De Gelsey House, 1 Jubilee Way, Faversham, Kent ME13 8GD**

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KCA is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

Community Drug Worker
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You will be part of a project providing specialist treatment to parents with drug or alcohol problems, who have been referred to Swale Children's Social Services, and whose substance use is impacting on the care of their children.

You will work closely with social workers to implement a joint package of care to families. This includes making home visits, attending case conferences and core group meetings.

With excellent assessment and intervention skills, you will help service users make significant changes to their substance use. Experience of working in partnership with other agencies is desirable. A background and qualification in substance misuse, nursing, counselling, social work or another relevant profession is essential.

If you would like to discuss this post further, please contact Sue Hamilton at shamilton@kca.org.uk or on 01843 298355 ext 217. Ref: 681.

Closing date: 26 July 2010 at 5.00pm.
Interview date: 6 August 2010.

Family Support Workers

2 posts • Fixed term until 31 March 2011

£22,958 - £29,236
37 hours per week • 1 post in Gravesham and 1 post in Swale

KCA Horizon drug treatment programmes offer intensive key working, group work and assistance and support in accessing opportunities in education, employment and voluntary work, to those wishing to address their substance misuse and make positive changes to their lifestyle.

You will be part of a community team whose aim is to improve the quality of treatment, in order to maximize the benefit to individuals' families and the local community. As a family support worker within the Horizon pilot project, you will be responsible for addressing the impact that substance misuse has on the family, including parenting and involving families and significant others in the care of service users.

You will need a professional qualification in a relevant discipline and a high level of experience working with families and the drug and alcohol field. Please quote reference number 682 (Gravesham post) and 683 (Swale post).

Closing date: 26 July 2010.
Interview date for both posts : 5 August 2010.

Finance Office Assistant

£15,039 - £16,830 pro rata per annum
30 hours per week • Based Faversham

As part of our busy finance team, you will undertake the daily administration duties and assist in the operation and maintenance of the purchase ledger, sales ledger and payroll. You will also provide back-up support for team members as required. Training will be provided.

You will need to have good keyboard skills, be numerate and fully computer literate. Previous experience of working in a finance office and knowledge of Microsoft Office and Dynamics Great Plains is desirable but not essential. You will need to be able to respond to people in a professional manner and have good communication skills.

For an informal discussion regarding the role, please contact Ann Colyer, Finance Office Manager, on 01795 590795. Ref: 684.

Closing date: 23 July 2010.
Interview date: 11 August 2010.

Application forms and job descriptions for all roles can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk You can also email recruitment@kca.org.uk or call 01795 590795 selecting option three. Please quote the relevant reference number.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824

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CRICKET

BY STEVE TERVET

Winning draw fails to bring Upchurch closer

Kent League Division Three

Catford Wanderers 1st XI v Upchurch 1st XI

UPCHURCH have lost ground in the race for promotion from Division Three after stubborn batting from the Catford Wanderers lower-order held them to a winning draw.

Starting the day third, Upchurch's sights were set on closing the gap to Addington Village and Gravesend, but their failure to take ten wickets proved costly as Linden Park leap-frogged them with victory over Old Elthamians.

The early departure of Michael Hales for a duck briefly put Upchurch on the back foot but they rallied, largely thanks to Adam Hodder's knock of 73.

Andrew Shirley (38) and Michael Hales jnr (44) also boosted the visitors and they reached 277 all out from their 50 overs, with Larry Surajit – one of nine bowlers used by Wanderers – taking 5 for 49.

Upchurch made instant inroads with the ball as Catford lost Charlie Dennis and Samira Godawita cheaply but Nuneer Ghazi settled the hosts with 66, which included 12 boundaries.

The momentum swung back in Catford's favour as Upchurch were held up by Shavawn Cunningham (43) and Jack Haslam (35) but the visitors fought back and reduced Wanderers to 187 for 7.

However, they could not find it within themselves to dismiss Jordan Moody, who finished unbeaten on 14, with Catford closing their 50 overs at 205 for 8.

Upchurch are now 11 points adrift of Gravesend, who occupy the second promotion place, and they now face a run of three crucial games as they take on Gravesend, Linden Park and Addington over the next three Saturdays.



Picture: IGOR KUPCO

COSTLY: Upchurch failed to make their mark against Catford Wanderers and had to settle for a winning draw 11 points adrift from top

SCORE CARD

Upchurch 1st XI

	Runs
Michael Hales ct Thompson b Surajit	0
Andrew Shirley run out	38
Adam Hodder ct Ghazi b Surajit	73
Theo Barnett Lbw b Newman	20
Michael Hales jnr ct Dennis b Chea	44
Lee Stepney ct Ghazi b Surajit	4
Alan Collis ct Haslam b Chea	4
Marc Bond Lbw b Surajit	19
Daniel Parker b Surajit	16
Kevin Cunningham not out	6
Craig Bewick st Ghazi b Haslam	1
Extras (13b 9lb 22w 8nb)	52
Total (all out, 50 overs)	277

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Larry Surajit	13	1	49	5
Damion Grosscel	8	2	38	0
Jordan Moody	5	0	32	0
Ian Newman	8	0	36	1
Shavawn Cunningham	4	0	27	0
Sameera Godawita	2	0	10	0
Ewart Thompson	4	0	30	0
Remi Chea	5	0	28	2
Jack Haslam	1	0	5	1

Catford Wanderers 1st XI

	Runs
Nuneer Ghazi ct Barnett b Hodder	66
Charlie Dennis ct Collis b Bond	0
Sameera Godawita ct Shirley b Parker	1
Shavawn Cunningham ct Stepney b Bewick	43
Jack Haslam ct Hodder b Parker	35
Remi Chea ct Shirley b Bewick	5
Damion Grosscel lbw b Cunningham	16
Jordan Moody not out	14
Larry Surajit lbw b Cunningham	6
Ewart Thompson not out	0
Ian Newman did not bat	
Extras (9b 4lb 6w)	19
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	205

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Marc Bond	7	1	31	1
Daniel Parker	8	0	37	2
Kevin Cunningham Jr	12	2	51	2
Michael Hales jnr	4	0	23	0
Craig Bewick	8	2	22	2
Adam Hodder	8	2	17	1
Theo Barnett	3	0	11	0

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER 2ND XI

Lordswood 2nd XI v Bexley 2nd XI

A MIXED batting display cost Lordswood 2nds as they finished just short of Bexley 2nds' target to claim only a losing draw.

Bexley's openers both departed for single figures but Daniel Haley and Murtaza Abbas got the visitors' innings back on track. The latter was the first of four batsmen removed by Kevin Masters as Bexley were restricted to 205 for 8.

Lordswood's innings began in a similar fashion, with Nathan Moore and Shaun Piesley finding form after two early wickets. But the innings fell away after Jamie Gilfillan and Paul Richards were dismissed and they finished 15 runs short of victory.

Bexley 2nd XI

		Runs
Che Cumberbatch	ct Gilfillan b Prince	9
David Pask	b Richards	8
Daniel Haley	ct Plews b Moore	62
Murtaza Abbas	st Piesley b Masters	60
Archie Woodgate	ct Moore b Moore	2
Chris Pinnock	ct Ruler b Masters	20
Martin Pask	ct Ruler b Masters	19
Stanley Wells	b Masters	5
Joe Russell	not out	9
Henry Pickering	not out	1
Paul Thorburn	did not bat	
Extras	(2lb 1w 7nb)	10
Total	(8 wickets, 50 overs)	205

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Paul Richards	8	1	31	1
Jonathan Prince	11	1	37	1
Kevin Masters	14	2	53	4
Thomas Davis	8	0	32	0
Nathan Moore	9	0	50	2

Lordswood 2nd XI

		Runs
Zack Plews	ct Pinnock b Russell	9
Nathan Moore	run out (Woodgate)	47
Laurence Frost	b Russell	8
Shaun Piesley	ct Woodgate b Thorburn	43
James Kitcherside	lbw b Thorburn	0
Jamie Gilfillan	ct D Pask b Thorburn	31
Paul Richards	ct M Pask b Thorburn	23
Jonathan Prince	run out (Pinnock)	0
Mick Ruler	ct Haley b M Pask	8
Kevin Masters	not out	5
Thomas Davis	not out	0
Extras	(9b 6lb 2w)	17
Total	(9 wickets, 50 overs)	191

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Stanley Wells	7	2	30	0
Joe Russell	12	0	40	2
Martin Pask	7	1	31	1
Paul Thorburn	13	7	28	4
Henry Pickering	8	2	26	0
Murtaza Abbas	3	0	21	0

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION THREE 2ND XI

Rainham 2nd XI v High Halstow 2nd XI

RAINHAM'S promotion hopes took a dent as they lost to High Halstow by three wickets on Saturday.

Both the home side's openers were dismissed cheaply, but the rest of Rainham's batsmen chipped in. John Dangerfield (44) and James Reeves (43) looked well set but fell before they reached their half centuries. A string of modest scores took them to 227 for 8.

High Halstow were indebted to Daren Brumbaugh, who was caught one run shy of a century but batted them into a winning position. Aaron Hawkins took 4 for 46, but the visitors got home with five overs to spare.

Rainham 2nd XI

		Runs
Aaron Hawkins	run out (Weaver)	9
Paul Swaine	b Weaver	5
John Dangerfield	b Ch Dockwray	44
James Reeves	ct Singh b Belsey	43
Nick Plumridge	c&b Ch Dockwray	20
Stuart Swaine	b Ch Dockwray	24
Jordan Mitchell	b Belsey	23
Luke Fewsdale	b Ch Dockwray	19
Kevin Taylor	not out	3
Jordan Shersby	not out	2
Liam Kelly	did not bat	
Extras	(10b 4lb 21w)	35
Total	(8 wickets, 50 overs)	227

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Ryan Weaver	15	4	43	1
Paul Belsey	15	2	72	2
Jamie Kingbrooks	8	0	31	0
Chris Dockwray	10	0	53	4
Daren Brumbaugh	2	0	14	0

High Halstow 2nd XI

		Runs
Graham Franks	lbw b Taylor	41
Carl Dockwray	ct Taylor b Kelly	7
Daren Brumbaugh	ct Mitchell b Hawkins	99
Tim Munday	not out	49
Sukhdeep Singh	ct Mitchell b Hawkins	0
David Sibley	b Taylor	15
Paul Belsey	b Hawkins	0
Jamie Kingbrooks	ct Mitchell b Hawkins	4
Ryan Stickings	not out	0
Ryan Weaver	did not bat	
Chris Dockwray	did not bat	
Extras	(9b 3lb 1w)	13
Total	(7 wickets, 45 overs)	228

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Jordan Shersby	7	0	34	0
Liam Kelly	7	2	25	1
Nick Plumridge	2	0	28	0
John Dangerfield	4	0	24	0
Kevin Taylor	14	1	59	2
Aaron Hawkins	11	1	46	4

KENT REGIONAL LEAGUE 1A CENTRAL

Sheppey 1st XI v Holcombe 1st XI

RUSSELL Shipton carried his bat to hit a century but it could not stop Holcombe losing to Sheppey by 55 runs.

The home side's victory was almost exclusively down to their top order batsmen, who scored the vast majority of their total. Ashley Hayward (100) and Joe Sands (86) did most of the damage before both were caught off Tom Dix's bowling.

Chasing 298 for victory, Holcombe's reply was anchored around Shipton. The opener batted the entire innings for his 115, but the run rate was beyond the visitors as they came up well short.

Sheppey 1st XI

		Runs
Joe Sands	ct Martin b T Dix	86
Aaron Walker	ct Shipton b Chell	42
Ashley Hayward	ct Carter b T Dix	100
Elliot McEntire	ct C Dix b Avery	24
Bobby Cunningham	b Avery	3
Naveed Tahir	b T Dix	6
Oliver Dewey	not out	6
David Martin	not out	12
Kevin Barnes	did not bat	
Paul Martin	did not bat	
Jason Crofskey	did not bat	
Extras	(2b 6lb 10w)	18
Total	(6 wickets, 46 overs)	297

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Tom Dix	11	0	63	3
Sam Avery	12	0	76	2
Colin Dix	12	0	63	0
Paul Chell	6	0	31	1
Kevin Shipton	2	0	17	0
Adam Carter	3	0	34	0

Holcombe CC - 1st XI

		Runs
Russell Shipton	not out	115
Kevin Shipton	st Dewey b Cunningham	13
Paul Chell	ct Hayward b Tahir	38
Leigh Martin	run out (Barnes)	13
Mark Harvey	b Walker	0
Tom Dix	run out (Crofskey)	14
Adam Carter	not out	22
Sam Avery	did not bat	
Colin Dix	did not bat	
Ben Poppy	did not bat	
Maurice Mulyre	did not bat	
Extras	(9b 3lb 15w)	27
Total	(5 wickets, 46 overs)	242

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Naveed Tahir	12	3	44	1
Joe Sands	4	1	25	0
Bobby Cunningham	12	1	65	1
Elliot McEntire	4	1	14	0
Paul Martin	5	0	30	0
Aaron Walker	7	0	41	1
Ashley Hayward	1	0	1	0
David Martin	1	0	8	0

KENT REGIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP EAST

Old Williamsonians 1st XI v Frindsbury 1st XI

A LATE collapse saw Frindsbury miss out on what looked a certain victory, handing a six-run win to Old Williamsonians.

After losing Hugo Parnell for a duck, Daniel Buckle and David Child batted the home side into a good position. Child went on to complete his century as Old Williamsonians set a competitive 233 for 6.

Frindsbury relied on Selwin Fisher and Sam Dudgeon's partnership. With wickets in hand they looked on course for the points, but a run out and two wickets for Jimmy Masters saw the hosts snatch victory.

Old Williamsonians 1st XI

		Runs
Hugo Parnell	ct S Gracey b Mumford	0
Daniel Buckle	run out	48
David Child	b Mumford	108
Jonathan Child	ct S Gracey b M Gracey	15
Luke Butcher	b Dudgeon	28
James Whitnell	ct Sait b Dudgeon	12
Alex Fisher	not out	5
Andy Wood	did not bat	
Peter Meyers	did not bat	
Phil Patterson	did not bat	
Jimmy Masters	did not bat	
Extras	(4b 2lb 9w 2nb)	17
Total	(6 wickets, 46 overs)	233

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Chris Mumford	11	2	54	2
Sam Dudgeon	12	1	59	2
Selwin Fisher	5	0	25	0
Mark Gracey	12	1	47	1
Peter Elswood	4	0	26	0
Samuel Gracey	2	0	16	0

Frindsbury 1st XI

		Runs
Peter Blackman	lbw b Patterson	8
Robert Sait	ct Whitnell b Patterson	39
Thomas Burt	ct Masters b Masters	3
Sam Dudgeon	ct Patterson b Fisher	42
Selwin Fisher	ct Parnell b Child	80
Samuel Gracey	ct Parnell b Meyers	6
Sam Budd	b Child	15
Adam Loynds	run out	8
Chris Mumford	b Masters	8
Peter Elswood	lbw b Masters	0
Mark Gracey	not out	0
Extras	(2b 3lb 12w 1nb)	18
Total	(all out , 44 overs)	227

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Phil Patterson	12	0	55	2
Jimmy Masters	6	1	26	3
Luke Butcher	8	0	50	0
Peter Meyers	8	1	40	1
Alex Fisher	5	1	25	1
Jonathan Child	5	0	26	2

French pre-season trip is a chance for Gills to bond

GILLINGHAM head off for their pre-season trip to France tomorrow with manager Andy Hessenthaler hoping it will help bond the players ahead of the new season.

As they did a year ago, the squad will spend two days training in northern France before taking on Calais in a friendly on Saturday.

Hessenthaler is an enthusiastic supporter of team bonding trips and will let the squad drink alcohol, within reason, to help foster a spirit which he believes was lacking last season.

He said: "It's time away from the training ground in a different environment to get the boys together in some structured training looking at the way we want to play.

Underwhelmed

"I know they've played together for quite a long time, but talking to the players I don't think they had much of that last season. They didn't have a lot of togetherness and I think if you get it off the pitch you'll get it on the pitch."

The club's pre-season games began with low-key 2-1 defeats at the hands of Braintree Town and Bromley on Friday and Saturday. Both featured a smattering of triallists looking to impress, but Hessenthaler was largely underwhelmed by their contribution and intends to release several this week.

He said: "We're going to have to start making decisions because it wouldn't be fair if they're not going to get anything here they've got to look to get something.

"You can't prolong it too long. They've got to be better than what we've got and if you look at it they haven't been so we move on."

Striker Sam Gargan and defender Tony Sinclair were invited back, while goalkeeper Lance Cronin was expected to play at Dartford last night after recovering from a thigh injury.

The team at Princes Park was also likely to include Stanley Aborah, a Ghanaian midfielder who began his career at Ajax.

After missing the first two games with a slight hamstring strain, Simeon Jackson was due to feature for the first time in pre-season last night. Speculation over the striker's future refuses to go away and Hessenthaler admitted he was identifying targets in the event the 23-year-old is sold.

He said: "If we lose Simeon there's a plan in your mind, that's why we're trying to identify other forwards because we need a contingency plan. I'm hoping that Simeon doesn't go from a selfish point because I want him to stay, but I'm also realistic and know that it could happen."

FOOTBALL

BY DAVID PRITCHARD



Picture ADY KERRY

RAISING THE SPIRITS: Gillingham's new boss Andy Hessenthaler says his squad's trip to France is more than just a fitness exercise

GOLF

Haines loses touch in Lyon after bright beginning to Tour

MATT Haines missed out on another top finish on the European Challenge Tour after a costly final 36 holes at the Allianz Golf Open de Lyon.

The Rochester & Cobham Park golfer has impressed since turning professional earlier this year, but the 20-year-old will be disappointed with his 57th-place finish after such a promising start.

Haines, who has been sitting in the Challenge Tour's top five, opened the tournament with a solid two-under-par 69, which was good enough to leave him in 34th spot at the end of day one.

He followed up the round with another two-under-par 69 which comfortably ensured he would make the cut, while lying in tournament contention in 23rd place.

However, his progress came to a halt in the third round with a two-over-par 73, which dropped him down the leaderboard and was unable to recover in Sunday's final round, ending the day with another 73.

The performance means Haines has dropped to seventh in the European Challenge Tour rankings.



Picture ADY KERRY

OFF COURSE: Matt Haines fell away in last two rounds



Picture MEDWAY DRAGONS

TRYING TIMES: Medway Dragons under-12s narrowly failed to join their under-13 and under-18 club mates in the final

Semi-finals fire young Dragons up for victory

MEDWAY Dragons will have two teams competing for their respective regional rugby league titles this weekend after an eventful series of semi-finals on Saturday.

The club's under-13s booked their place in the London RL Junior League grand final at Harlequins' Stoop with a nail-biting 20-18 win over Croydon Hurricanes.

They will be joined by the under-18s – in their first season – whose passage to the final was far easier after their semi-final opponents the London Skolars cancelled.

But the Dragons' under-12s could not complete a memorable hat-trick, losing 26-14 against Elmbridge Eagles.

The under-13s' clash was the pick of the games at the Garrison and was a repeat of last year's semi-final, when the Hurricanes triumphed.

RUGBY LEAGUE

The visitors took an early lead, scoring either side of Andrew Woodward's converted try, but the Dragons edged into a 10-8 half-time due to a score from Charlie Faux.

The Hurricanes controlled the game after the break and took an eight-point lead into the final ten minutes.

A repeat of last year's meeting looked on the cards, but the Dragons hit back with tries from Jamie Gillen and Faux. The home side will now meet Brentwood Elvers this weekend.

The under-12s could not repeat the feat and despite a try from David Harris they trailed 14-4 at half-time. Sam Sharpe and Amrik Bains crossed for scores after the interval, but the Eagles had too much for them.

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Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler discusses his summer transfer plans

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